Daily Report

Latin America

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Regional Reaction to San Jose Presidents' Summit

PA0311155089

[Editorial Report] Reaction to the meeting of western hemispheric presidents held in San Jose on 27 and 28 October 1989 has been largely positive, with the notable exception of Panama and Cuba, neither of which participated in the gathering.

Colombia

Colombian President Virgilio Barco "expressed great pleasure over the summit," according to a 28 October AFP dispatch from San Andres Island where President Barco paid an unexpected visit following the summit meeting. AFP quoted Barco as saying that "Colombia had won a place in the defense of democracy" with its struggle against the drug mafias. Barco was also cited as saying that he was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with area leaders at the summit, at which "the seed has been sown to renew the world coffee agreement."

Ecuador

According to several press agency accounts, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja described the summit meeting as "brilliant" and "positive." Pointing to the fact that the Latin American presidents had "conveyed to President Bush our countries' concerns on subjects such as foreign debt and protectionism," Borja expressed "confidence" that it will "produce a change in U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean."

Venezuela

According to the Hamburg news agency DPA, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, speaking to journalists in San Jose on 28 October on Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's decision to suspend the cease-fire, said that he hoped Ortega would "correct this huge error and maintain the cease-fire." On 30 October, the Madrid news agency EFE reported from Caracas that Perez had remarked that "Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was right in asking for compliance with the agreement to dismantle the contras in Honduras," and that "there has apparently been interference to avoid the implementation of UN mechanisms...to supervise and demobilize the contras in Honduras as had been agreed upon."

Costa Rica

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who hosted the meeting, told ACAN-EFE on 29 October that the summit had turned out to be "much more important than previously thought," and that U.S. President George Bush "is no longer the same" after having talked with other hemispheric leaders and "only now...has truly understood the debt problem." According to a 28 October ACAN-EFE roundup on the meeting, Arias described the presidents' informal talks at the summit as "enriching, constructive, and positive."

El Salvador

According to a report aired on Salvadoran television the evening of 30 October, President Alfredo Cristiani said that "positive results were obtained during the summit," at which his country "received great support for the peace process." Cristiani, the report continued, added that one of the summit's main accomplishments was the "opportunity" it afforded him "to hold bilateral talks with South American presidents."

That same morning the San Salvador morning newspaper LA PRENSA GRAFICA had played up the "support" that El Salvador received at the summit in a report on a press conference held by President Bush before leaving San Jose. LA PRENSA GRAFICA reported that Bush had pledged "full U.S. support for President Alfredo Cristiani" and had expressed satisfaction with reports he had received that El Salvador "had made spectacular progress in the field of human rights." The summit, the paper affirmed, brought great satisfaction because "continental democracy has been strengthened."

Nicaragua

President Daniel Ortega also had high praise for the summit meeting, according to a 30 October report by the official Sistema Sandinista Television Network. According to the television report, before "hundreds of people in Rivas" President Ortega said: "I view as positive the historic fact that the U.S. President was sitting there listening in a clear, direct, frank, and respectful manner to the statements by the Central American and Caribbean presidents about the serious economic, political, and social problems affecting the area." Ortega described the meeting as "a far-reaching event," adding that "even more far-reaching is the fact that the president of Nicaragua was sitting there against the will of the U.S. empire."

Nicaraguan official media also positively assessed the summit meeting. A front page report in the 29 October issue of BARRICADA, the official FSLN organ, said that the summit "was an unprecedented affair, because it launched an open and strikingly sincere dialogue between the developed and underdeveloped countries of the Americas." The BARRICADA report noted that although President Bush did not "offer any concrete support" and "avoided" the topic of the contras' demobilization, he "had to listen to everything." The report reached the conclusion that although Bush "did not provide any answers...the mere fact that this dialogue has been held is in itself a resounding victory for the underdeveloped countries of the Americas."

Honduras

Honduran President Jose Azcona, for his part, was lukewarm in his assessment of the meeting. At a news conference at the government palace upon his return—transmitted over Tegucigalpa radio on 30 October—Azcona said that he was "satisfied" over the summit

because "...we did not go there with high expectations regarding what was to take place. We are satisfied, however, because Colombia and Brazil...are willing to reach an agreement with the other coffee producers to see if we can return to the quota system, and this is very important for Honduras." Asked if he agreed with Costa Rican President Arias' belief that U.S. President Bush now understands the Latin American presidents' position regarding the foreign debt, Azcona replied: "Yes, I believe so."

The Honduran media, however, focused on Nicaraguan President Ortega's decision to bring up the demobilization of the contras as a topic at the meeting. The Tegucigalpa newspaper LA PRENSA used its editorial in the 1 November issue to criticize President Ortega's participation from beginning to end. Describing Ortega as the "odd man" among "the group of democrats of all shades" who had come from "all over the continent," the editorial said that Ortega's goal was "publicity: to stand out and to make a little noise, but nothing else," and chastised Ortega for losing, by not speaking of democracy at the summit meeting, a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to improve Nicaragua's image as well as his own.

The opposite view was taken by the San Pedro Sula newspaper TIEMPO, which defended President Ortega's participation editorially in its 31 October issue. The editorial said that President Ortega was merely trying "to speed up the process to demobilize the contras" since the "U.S. Government, through its ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Pickering, and its mercenary puppet Enrique Bermudez...is trying to abort the Tela agreement." The editorial took President Bush to task for having used harsh epithets—such as "undesirable animal," "little man," and "pariah"—to describe President Ortega while in Costa Rica, adding that the meeting resulted in a "deepening of U.S. hatred of Nicaragua." The editorial charged that although "diplomatic window dressing is being used to tone down the failure and to project an imaginary success," the meeting did "very little to solve the problems on the agenda."

Cuba

As one of four area presidents who were not invited to the meeting, Cuban leader Fidel Castro offered Venezuelan reporters a prior assessment of the summit. According to a 28 October PRENSA LATINA preview of an interview with Castro on a Venezuelan television talkshow, which was not aired until the morning of 30 October, Castro said that the summit was a "big hypocrisy" and a "caricature of a meeting," because there would be no exchange of opinions, no discussions, and no agenda. PRENSA LATINA reported that Castro claimed that the U.S. President was applying pressure on Costa Rica for it to invite Chile's Augusto Pinochet to the meeting, and as a result "Arias then excluded four countries."

Panama

To Carlos Duque, president of Panama's ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, there was another reason behind this exclusion. In a column in the 29 October issue of Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL, Duque said: "Bush, who agrees to anything rather than give up his sick obsession against Panama, joined in the centennial celebration and set as a sole condition that President Francisco Rodriguez not be invited. To cover up the grotesque, petty exclusion, they added Cuba, Chile, and Haiti." Analyzing "the damage that Oscar Arias tried to cause us through the biased minisummit," Duque said that "the only serious document with a theme, respectful language, and substance...was the open letter of Panama" that President Rodriguez addressed to the summit.

For its part the PRD issued a resolution during a meeting of its National Directorate on 28 October which, among other things, charges that the "meeting seeks to coordinate the assassination of General Manuel Antonio Noriega...and to destroy the democratic and national liberation process currently being carried out in Nicaragua." The resolution also accuses "the Bush administration and its domestic allies...of being responsible for the 3 October coup attempt against...General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his Armed Forces."

Panamanian official media maintained a steady assault on the summit and its organizers from 26 through 29 October, focusing mainly on Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Endara's purported remark in San Jose that "sometime this year" General Noriega would leave Panama "in wooden pajamas." The media used this remark to characterize the meeting as a "hostile operation against the Republic of Panama."

Mexico, Guatemala

There has been no monitored reaction to date from Mexico or Guatemala, whose presidents declined the invitation to attend the summit.

Further Reaction

PY0311162089

[Editorial Report]

Argentina

Argentine newspapers and press agencies closely followed President Carlos Menem's activities during his visit to Costa Rica and subsequently to Nicaragua. The Buenos Aires newspapers CLARIN, HERALD, LA NACION, and LA PRENSA carry agency-attributed roundups of the events in Costa Rica.

Prior to leaving Costa Rica for Nicaragua, President Menem tells Radio Mitre 29 October that he hopes that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will "reconsider"

his "untimely" decision to cancel the unilateral cease-fire with the Contras, DYN reports. Menem also reiterates his willingness to "mediate for peace in Central America."

On the subject of U.S.-Argentine relations, the same DYN item reports that Menem notes President Bush's willingness "to contribute, within a framework of interdependence, to Argentina's evolution and economic development."

On 30 October, following the Argentine delegation's return to Buenos Aires, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo announces that Nicaragua has asked the Argentine Government "to intercede with the other Central American countries and with anyone else who may have influence over the Contras to make them disband," NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reports.

In a 31 October statement to the media, President Menem sounds a cautionary note when he says that U.S. aid to the Contras makes the Central American situation "even more difficult," DYN reports. According to a TELAM report, Menem restates Argentina's role in resolving the conflict, saying that it is "not one of being an intermediary, but one of good offices."

Foreign Minister Cavallo announces on 2 November that Argentina has concluded its good offices role, and he stresses that his country "will be alert" to developments in the Nicaraguan situation, NA reports. In commenting on the "ambiguous" Nicaraguan communique released 1 November, Cavallo also terms the lifting of the cease-fire "not the thing to do."

Brazil

Brazilian newspapers and press agencies also devote much attention to the events at the San Jose summit. The Rio de Janeiro agency AJB reports 27 October that President Jose Sarney, in his "Chatting by the Radio" program, complains of "U.S. protectionist laws" and rebuts President Bush's remarks on Brazilian democracy. Sarney charges that the transition to democracy is being carried out "under sanctions," making it even more difficult for the government to encourage economic development. "There is nothing to fear, no reason to panic," Sarney asserts.

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 29 October in a 350-word item on page 10, highlights President Sarney's complaint that the United States is "paying too much attention" to Eastern Europe. The article also summarizes Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima's opinion that the U.S. President's speech in San Jose does not propose solutions to Latin American problems. According to the paper, Flecha de Lima believes Bush is "frustrated" by the "timid" OAS reaction to the Panama situation.

Uruguay

Uruguayan media has not been observed to comment on the San Jose summit.

Secretary Assumes Duties at FONPLATA

PY0311112389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0059 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Sucre, 1 Nov (EFE)—Miguel Angel Luque Portela, the new executive secretary of FONPLATA, the River Plate Basin Financial Fund, today began his official duties at the headquarters of this subregional organization in Sucre, Bolivia. Luque Portela is a Paraguayan citizen.

The members of FONPLATA are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. This organization was created by the River Plate Treaty signed in Brasilia in 1969 to promote harmonious development and the physical integration of the region. [passage omitted]

Cuba

President Castro Dedicates Cienfuegos School

PA0411130389 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0325 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro inaugurating a special education school named after Camilo Cienfuegos during the events marking the 30th anniversary of Cienfuegos' death on 28 October—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, I do not know if a ceremony can be appropriately held when the participants are sitting and standing in a 400-meter area on a narrow street. I believe that we will be able to, judging from the silence I perceive and, above all, if these microphones and the loudspeakers work all right.

We wanted to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Camilo's physical death in a simple manner—worthy of him I might say. I believe that if he lived today, he—whose image destroying the walls of a fortress to turn it into a school has been engraved in everyone's mind—would be happy with his revolution and his people. He would also be doing what we are all doing, which is what he would have wanted to do throughout 30 years and build the revolution together with his people during those 30 years. I am sure that he would have been happy. I am sure that he would be filled with enthusiasm. I believe that precisely at these times our people are writing one of the most beautiful and glorious pages of their history. Camilo was a man who loved difficult tasks. We could say that he was a man who loved difficulties. He knew how to face them and was capable of carrying out feats under the most incredible circumstances.

This ceremony inaugurating this type of school in his memory is very symbolic. What does this type of school entail. I believe it is one of the most humane works of the revolution. Our forefathers dreamed that the day would come in which our fatherland would have teachers for all children, schools for all children, books for all children, shoes for all children, food for all children. But when one says schools for all children one thinks of the ABC's, one thinks of the teacher teaching how to read and write, one thinks of children as if they all were facing the exact same conditions, as if all children were exactly the same. They are exactly the same from the juridical and legal point of view. Unfortunately, however, our children come into the world with difficulties or develop problems once they are born. There were no schools for those children. It was not only a matter of having a teacher, or a book, or a school, but a teacher specialized in their education, a school specially designed for their education.

Important goals began to be achieved. There were goals such as the literacy goal, the goal of having a teacher for each child, a school for each child, books for each child, clothes and shoes for each child, food, in sum, all his needs. Other goals were getting parents jobs, having a society without children beggars, having a society without children who have to do what some children do in some parts of the world every day, children who even swallow fire to make a few cents. That society was left behind in the work of these 30 years of the revolution and was left behind early on.

The time in which there were no teachers in the countryside and the mountains, the time in which we did not have enough teachers who had graduated, has been left behind. Perhaps, during those times nobody talked about special education schools. Who was going to think of special education schools when many children did not have teachers or schools. Many children did not have food or shoes. Who talked about these schools? I do not remember hearing about special education schools when we began the revolutionary struggle.

Nevertheless, as our county began to progress, as our country achieved important goals, it began to discover other goals. It cannot be any other way. The need for special education schools was discovered as our education system began to advance.

It would not be necessary to dwell on this subject because we have seen that the press has reported in these last few days on what these special education schools mean for children who are born with, for example, retardation. How could those children be abandoned to their own fate? How can they be educated in traditional schools if they need special attention? They need special education, special training. If they do not get it, they will reject school, they will abandon it, and will receive no benefit.

There are children who have a certain lag in their psychological development, which is not the same thing. There are children who are born blind or deaf. There are children who are born with hearing impairments, although they may not be totally deaf, or with sight limitations, although they may not be totally blind. They need special attention to solve many of these problems. It has to be said that these schools are also health centers because they even help in physical rehabilitation in the cases of illnesses of many children. There are children with physical limitations. Some were born with them and others acquired them. There are not 3, 4, or 1,000 such cases.

I did not mention children with behavioral problems. They exist. What would be of them in the future without these schools? I was saying there are not 3, 4, or 1,000 but tens of thousands, tens of thousands [repeats himself].

I should mention on a day such as today that these institutions did not exist when the revolution triumphed in 1959. There are reports from 1959 that note 14 special education schools with 134 students enrolled. I estimate that they must have had between 15 and 20 teachers. That specialty did not exist. Thirty years later, the country has 466 special education schools. When Camilo died there were 14. There are 466 now. When Camilo died there were 134 children enrolled in this type of school. There are 52,900 now. When Camilo died there

were around 20 teachers. Now there are 14,900 teachers and professors in this type of education alone.

To give you an idea, of the 52,9000 students, around 30,000 are enrolled because of mental retardation. See the needs society had. Try to imagine the fate of those children and adolescents in the past and think about what it means that our society now has 30,000 children with mental retardation enrolled in these schools. In line with a society that is so solidary, so humane, so just as ours, no child is abandoned to his own fate. Experience has shown that most of the ones who have left this school are now incorporated into the work force or are studying something else. Only a few exceptions have not joined those activities because they cannot carry out a certain job.

Of those 52,000 children, around 10,000 are children with psychological developmental delay. They have to study in schools such as this one. They have different kinds of problems from those who have behavioral disturbances, sight problems, hearing problems, or physical impairments. It does not mean that the revolution forgot some of these children when these schools were needed. Of course, priority was given to the larger groups, such as mental retardation cases. However, we should say that in our country—I do not know if this happens in any other country—children with physical impairments are now taught in their homes.

Another thing—and I do not know that this exits in any other country—is that children who are hospitalized for a long period of time are taught in the hospital. I know that in Havana alone, hundreds of children are taught at hospitals when they stay there for a long period. They have not been abandoned. Teachers will continue going to the hospitals for those cases.

We are already building installations for the physically impaired. On other occasions, when I have visited some of these institutions, I have expressed my views on how they not only educate the child but some of them, according to the case, are cured—especially in certain types of visual illnesses. If we compare what we have today to the situation which existed on the day Camilo died, we have made notable progress. We have gone from 134 children enrolled to 52,900. We need room, however, for many more. We have room for a little over 50 percent of the children who need these institutions. We still need room for around 30,000 or 35,000 more.

In spite of problems, in spite of difficulties, in spite of the generalized crisis in Third World countries, in spite of the problems the world is experiencing, our country is now involved in the construction of 204 special education schools, among many other programs. These are the ones that are considered necessary to take care of all the needs of the country. This program is advancing. The first ones have already been inaugurated. Twenty four were needed in the capital. Nine have been inaugurated. The workers in the capital are making great efforts to have the 24 special education schools completed by 31 December. This year's program throughout the entire country was to complete about 40 of these schools.

We are advancing and we have a concrete program. We know that we have to build this type of school in each area of the country. That is, a special education school with various functions. We still need room for 30,000 or 35,000 more children. In other words, there are needs for that number of children. When we began the program, we needed room for about 40,000. We have made progress. Depending on the pace at which we work, for now the capital—which is the first place where this program began and the needs were not as great—will have the 24 special education schools it needs by 31 December. [applause]

I could ask if there is any capital in the world that can say that it has all the special education schools it needs. You can't even dream about it in Third World countries. There illiteracy goes from 30 to 70 percent. You can't even dream about it. They have not even reached the goals we were able to reach a long time ago. Even developed capitalist countries cannot dream about it. I do not know if I lack information, but we know how things are in the capitalist world. Such services are provided exclusively to very small sectors of the population. Nobody is thinking about it.

There are not just a few things that our people have that no developed capitalist country has. Our country's medical programs are a beautiful example. Our infant mortality rates have dropped below the ones many developed capitalist countries have. Some of Cuba's health programs do not exist in any other country. Programs such as the prenatal genetic program, the research program on the allergies of each child that is born, certain vaccination programs have been generalized, results of our own scientific research are programs that do not exist in any developed country. Some of them do not exist in other countries.

This is logical. Capitalist society is exploitative by nature, selfish by nature. It exploits man and is not concerned with this type of program.

The capital of the Republic is setting precedences in this field although it is not the city with the lowest infant mortality rate. Cienfuegos has an infant mortality index of about six. This is Cienfuegos, a province of the so-called interior of the country. It is among the lowest ones in the world. Our capital's infant mortality index is around 10. Washington's index is around 33. We could say that the capital of the wealthy and powerful empire that is blocking us, that is harassing us, that does everything possible to keep us from advancing, from making progress, the capital of such a wealthy country, exploiter of the world, has three times as many dead children for every 1,000 born alive than the ones that die in the capital of the socialist Republic of Cuba. [applause]

This special education school program has advanced more quickly in the capital. It should advance in the rest

of the country as quickly as possible. Construction is going on everywhere, in every province. This is going on in Santiago de Cuba as well, of course. The people from Santiago de Cuba are once more showing their formidable construction capabilities. They are involved in a number of economic, social projects at this time, as well as projects related to the fourth congress such as airports, hotels, theaters, squares. Don't you think that they are devoting all their efforts to that. They are devoting part of their efforts, only a part of their efforts to that. They are also building special education schools. It is one of the provinces that needs several. We hope that the people from Santiago can find additional energy to pay the attention this program deserves.

If we build 40 per year, we could complete the program in 5 years. We will see how many we have at the end of the year and what will next year's program will be. I ask myself, is there any Third World country with a program such as this? Is there any? I ask myself, is there any capitalist country with a program such as this? None. Nowhere. Is there something more humane than this? Is there something more humane that this in the world? That is what we do with all the children in the county and what we do with all the citizens in the country.

Is there something more humane than to reduce infant mortality from the 60, 70, 80, or more which many countries have, to 11 or less than 11? Up to this time, indexes are about 11. They are almost a point below what we had last year, which was 11.9 per each 1,000 born alive. In Latin America, it is said that between 700,000 and 800,000 children who could be saved die each year of treatable or preventable diseases. They do not survive.

Can the empire and the system responsible for all that talk to the world of human rights? Human rights in a system in which an enormous part of the population is unemployed and where women become prostitutes and children are abandoned? The number of abandoned children in Latin America is impressive. There are millions, many millions. How can that system offer hope to man? How can that system talk about consideration toward man? This is why we have so much faith in socialism, have so much trust in socialism, and such deep socialist beliefs. [applause]

There have been anticommunist campaigns since these days when Camilo died. They were used as weapons, as the main instrument of imperialism against the revolution, to sow distrust, to sow doubt. The problems in Camaguey were caused by those anticommunist and antisocialist feelings. Individuals of bourgeois or petit-bourgeois origin joined in that campaign because that is what they thought. They tried to crack the revolution, to create division in the revolution.

During the Camaguey events that have been remembered in these days there was a man—his name is not worth mentioning next to the names we have to mention at a time like this, his name is not worth mentioning next to Camilo's because Camilo is worth a million more times than what that man is worth—[applause] whose banner was simply anticommunism. He tried to promote sedition in the name of anticommunism. There were no chances for success. The people cannot be deceived so easily. Even though someone could have been able to confuse a few people at that time because they were not mature enough or did not have enough political culture and education, they would have been crushed. Blood, however, would have been spilled in the center of the revolution.

The march with the people of Camaguey was remembered during these days. I believe it was on 22 October. The intention was not to crush by force. We were prepared to turn the barracks into dust, but we were going to overpower it with the masses, with the people. It would have been easy to deploy a few units with the necessary mortars, bazookas, tanks to crush that barracks. The idea, however, was to dominate the seditious with the force of the masses. That was one of Camilo's glorious days. He showed what Camilo was. The story has been written. I have read some reflections and some information. I remember it very well. The revolutionary counteroffensive began over the telephone with Comrade Jorge Enrique Mendoza. He was instructed to take over one of the radio stations and carry an announcement with the support of a rebel battalion that was on the outskirts of Camaguey. They were asked to stop. We wanted to see the plotters' reaction, if they were going to recover the radio station or not. They began to get demoralized.

We arrived in the morning. I don't know if it was on one or two planes. We would have to see some of the witnesses of that episode to reconstruct it exactly. I do not remember if Camilo arrived a few minutes before I did or if I arrived a few minutes before Camilo. I do not remember if we came in two planes or in one. However, the radio station had immediately informed the people of Camaguey of that man's treason. The people were ready and united. A huge crowd gathered as soon as we got to the city. We went to the barracks with the crowd. We were with the people. That would not have made any sense if the plotters had already been arrested or if the plotters had been crushed. The people from Camaguey advanced unarmed toward the barracks.

What was Camilo's feat? Camilo left us. I do not know how we can reconstruct these details. There must be comrades alive who remember the details. He went to the barracks, got it, and disarmed them. He went with a handful of men. He had them surrender with his authority, his values, his presence, and his courage. [applause]

It was not necessary for the people to get to the barracks. How can we measure his sense of responsibility? Where can we find proof of his feelings? What credit can we give him for what he did? He thought, as any of us would have thought, that many people could be killed, that a

shoot-out could take place. Who could have guaranteed 100 percent that they were going to surrender?

Our idea was to take over the barracks with the masses to teach the traitors once and for all what happens to those who go against the interests of the people, cost what it may. [applause]

Perhaps the plotters did not intend to shoot the people, but Camilo's action may have saved many lives, because anything could have happened, and Camilo moved ahead to avoid any situation or danger of that nature. This shows how much self-confidence he had; how much confidence he had in his heroism, in his courage and in his ability to undertake exceptional actions in given circumstances.

What that group and its leader wrote and upheld was the banner of anticommunism. This is why the words of Camilo we heard today are highly significant, that is, when he reads verses of (Bonifacio Birme) or when he proposes that this revolution must reach its ultimate goal. What did Camilo mean when he said, right after crushing a seditious anticommunist outbreak, that the revolution must reach its ultimate goal, and that ultimate goal was socialism, and communism [applause]. This is the ultimate goal we are determined to achieve. [applause]

Camilo had a very clear idea of the meaning of a revolution because he came from a revolutionary family, because he was a modest worker, because he absorbed revolutionary ideas since his birth, because he a tremendous revolutionary spirit, because he had a great revolutionary soul. It is easy to say all this now, but we should measure these qualities at a time when our people were still highly prejudiced, to the point that whenever a revolutionary law was passed, the people would welcome it, but the word socialism could not even be mentioned.

You may recall that Camilo died in 1959, and it was on 16 April 1961 that we declared the socialist nature of our revolution in the presence of our people in arms. It was our people in arms who raised their rifles to support with all their might the idea of the socialist revolution. By then, we had already overcome many obstacles and we had already raised consciousness. We had raised a revolutionary consciousness that was mature, not just enthusiastic. It was no longer just rebelliousness or hatred of tyranny, but it was something more than that: We already had a great historic objective.

In Giron, our men and women had already fought for socialism. In Giron, blood was already shed for socialism. Camilo had died about 1 and ½ years before. We could no longer count on Camilo's physical presence. It is useful to remember all this. During those bitter days, the enemy mercilessly slandered us in every possible way by reporting that Camilo had been assassinated, that he had been forced to disappear as a result of problems and rivalries. They even went as far as saying that Camilo had disappeared because he opposed the line followed by our revolution. We had these types of bitter things at that time.

The enemy has never missed a chance to sow discord among us or to instill bitterness in us. They did not miss it at that time either. They did the same thing when Che had to stay away for a long time. For security reasons—for Che's own sake, to protect his secret, his plans, his intentions—we could not release the letter he wrote prior to his departure. Thus, we had to face a landslide of slanders of all kinds.

They did the same thing on those bitter days when they made Camilo appear as missing, or when Camilo disappeared, thus giving all of us a terrible shock and an unbearable grief, his comrades, who spent practically a whole week searching for him in the hope that we could find him on a small island, in a secluded area. This is why it is useful to remember these things because the direct cause of that accident can be traced back to a problem that erupted in Camaguey and that was promoted by anticommunists.

Under these circumstances and given his responsibilities, Camilo had to travel several times to that province. Daring as he was, he would travel in daylight or at night, or in adverse weather conditions. In a small plane....[changes thought] because at that time we had neither experience nor safe planes. Actually, we had nothing. Thus, some of our comrades died and there was more than one accident. It is a miracle that we did not have more people killed. Camilo's figure acquired historic significance in the early years of the revolution, not only for what he did, for his courage in combat; but also for his ideas, his concepts, his deeply revolutionary purposes. This is why I also said that Camilo would be happy on a day like this; and he would be even happier if we have battles ahead of us, if we have difficulties, if we have challenges, if there are still injustices that should be corrected, if we vigorously continue to maintain our people's historic and heroic battle against the empire. Then, Camilo would be happier.

The path our people are following, our people's steady march without hesitation or doubts, their achievements despite the aggression and the blockade, their future prospects... I am sure all this would have instilled great encouragement in Camilo.

Today, as we remember him with so much love, we should take this into account: He left us early; how much could he have achieved all these years. What is important is that those things for which he fought wholeheartedly and for which he gave his life are getting done have been done and that the people remain the same as they were when he spoke outside the old palace, when he said that he would not bow his head, that we would do that only to tell our dead that our revolution has been accomplished.

Today, we may say that we could bow our heads and tell our dead that the revolution has been accomplished, but

at the same time we should continue to turn to our dead. [applause] We could kneel before the 20,000 dead of Camilo, who gave their lives for the revolution. To these we should add the thousands of people who gave their lives to consolidate the revolution by fighting bandits, by fighting terrorists, by fighting mercenaries; or those who died while accomplishing glorious internationalist missions. [applause] Camilo would have been very proud participating or leading any of these missions. He said that he regarded every revolutionary around the world as his brother. I was saying earlier that not only could we kneel before our dead to tell them that the revolution has been accomplished, but we should continue to appeal to them and we continue to appeal to our dead to help us in this unfinished struggle [applause] so that we can achieve the new objectives of our revolution, and the new battles lying ahead of it.

As Camilo said with his beautiful words, the dead accompany us. That is why I spoke of the physical death. That is one thing. That is the example of the inspiration and moral values that men like Camilo and Che bequeathed us. [applause] That is why Camilo said and repeated those beautiful words by (Birme): Our dead, with their arms raised, will still be able to defend the fatherland. In the times that we are living, in consolidation of what has been done, and in the process of doing what remains to be done, our dead, with their arms raised, will continue struggling and defending the fatherland. [applause]

Today I have not only paid tribute to Camilo in this neighborhood, in this proletarian municipality, where he was born and where we are inaugurating this school. We have paid tribute to Camilo everywhere in the country. Today we inaugurated a beautiful monument in his memory, in Yaguajay. Yesterday, over 10 institutions were inaugurated—child care centers, schools, and polyclinics in Santiago de Cuba Province. We have paid tribute to him everywhere. Flowers have been placed everywhere in his memory.

Today, in our capital, not only did we inaugurate this school, but we also inaugurated a beautiful medical school. [applause] We can see that some of the youths from that school are present here. They are the students from the Julio Trigo Medical School. A whole hospital complex has been built there. There is the [name indistinct] pediatrics hospital, the Julio Trigo Clinical-Surgical Hospital. There is also the Lebredo Maternity Hospital which is part of the Julio Trigo Hospital Complex. There are now tens and tens of family clincs and several polyclinics in a municipality that used to be one of the poorest in the capital—Arroyo Naranjo. What was Arroyo Naranjo before? It used to be a peripheral zone where some of the poorest people in the country lived. It is said that Arroyo Naranjo used to supply construction workers for the city. Everyone had houses except them. There were houses, mansions for the rich, the bourgeois; but the construction workers lived in substandard neighborhoods.

Arroyo Naranjo has a population of almost 200,000. In a short time, we have already built the clinical-surgical center, the maternity hospital, and a large number of house-clinics. The Julio Trigo Medical School that was inaugurated today is an excellent facility in that municipality. Today we could call that municipality a Cinderella-like municipality. Arroyo Naranjo has provided support for these constructions and it has also provided a large number of construction workers for the minibrigades. The municipality leads in the fight against substandard neighborhoods, and there were several of them there.

These past few days, I have seen some things in that municipality that would have made Camilo happy. There, for example, we have the first town created by the social minibrigades. The people of Arroyo Naranjo were the first to organize the construction social minibrigades to eradicate the substandard neighborhoods. They built hundreds of homes. There were several of these substandard neighborhoods in that peripheral zone. Leaders of the town have gone there. Men and women who are leading their community in this revolutionary task.

Recently, I toured the areas where they were working. I will give you an example. The social minibrigades of the Guasimas is made up of several people from these substandard neighborhoods. Some of workers are people who have been allowed to leave their work centers so they can work on the eradication of these substandard neighborhoods. However, many of the workers are housewifes. Many are youths who were not working. The Guasimas minibrigade is composed of approximately 700 people. The size is not one of a minibrigade, but that is what it is called to distinguish it from other kinds of construction organizations.

Now, just note what an amazing thing this is. They get paid like minibrigade workers do, or they get the salary of a 10-hour construction worker. Those people who are building their own homes, schools, child care centers, materials industry enterprises, house-clinics, and commercial units, etcetera, work 14 hours per day. Wouldn't Camilo have liked to have seen his people who are capable of carrying out this feat? Wouldn't he have liked to have seen his compatriots organized and building those very modern housing units? Wouldn't he have liked to have known that they are working 14 hours? Wouldn't he have liked to have known that absenteeism is 0.2 percent? I am referring to unexcused absenteeism. I am not referring to cases of illness. What 0.2 percent means is that out of every 500 people, 1 person misses work. It is something of a miracle. It is something that may appear impossible, unattainable.

A couple of days later I was able to attend an event, along with the people of another well-known neighborhood—La Guinera. What did I attend? I attended a full cultural event of high quality. The performers worked like good artists, and many of them were among the best. They were among our best artists. At the event, the silence was comparable to this one, the attention was comparable to

yours. The event was held in a square surrounded by buildings that the residents had built. The humble town is carrying out feats in the transformation of the capital at the same time that it is transforming itself. The town has a cafeteria where there is a table for teaching good table manners to the minibrigade workers.

During those couple of days, I also saw other things. I was interested in the progress of the construction materials industry. I know what our limitations are in that area. I experienced a special satisfaction in seeing the first industrial collective that has been turned into a contingent. They are the workers of a materials factory; it is a new plant. There are several plants that we have been building, almost all of them are about to be inaugurated; and these are very serious and impressive matters. There are four lines for the production of concrete blocks. There is a floor beam factory—not very big beams, but very practical, and they are used widely in the construction of floors in conjunction with a type of concrete block called a bovedilla. They have four factories there—four block factories that is—and one of them is producing bovedillas. They have a terrazo factory where they are producing materials for stairs. The colors they are producing them in are beautiful. Maybe this school could have had them if the factory would have been built earlier. Finally, a sixth line for tiles is being set up. Actually, it is a seventh line. The sixth line is the terrazo line, the fifth line is the vault (space between rafters) [bovedilla] line, and the seventh line is the tile line. There are seven lines.

Basing themselves on the example of the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent, they have turned out to be very good workers. Furthermore, the workers were not specially selected, they were people from the area. Almost all of them were residents of San Miguel del Padron. As a matter of fact, many of them were from Oriente Province. I can tell where they are from by looking at their features and at their stare. [laughter] I can also tell if they are descendants of people from the Oriente Province who moved to that zone—Arroyo Naranjo, San Miguel del Padron, etc. They have turned out to be very good workers. I really did not have such high opinions of the working abilities of the people from the Oriente Province. Since it is so hot there, one has the tendency to think that the people from Oriente Province like to stay under the shade of a tree. However, they, most of them young people, decided to produce almost double the amount of work that is done in a single shift of 14 hours. We saw them working there. We chatted with them. It was their initiative to work in that manner. They still do not have the supplies of a contingent, they are aspiring to become a contingent. They still do not have, for example, the appropriate clothing for that type of work, or shoes. They do not have the care that the contingents receive. They are very productive. The chiefs of the factories explained to me that, in a single work shift, they produce more than some factories do in two shifts. The factory is modern, of course. A lot of the equipment is automatic; it is the type of work that can be done with that kind of equipment. Nevertheless, their attitude, initiative, and productivity was very impressive.

During these days, I also decided to tour various new industries that are already finished, or which are under construction for the production of materials. I will give you an idea of what is happening. When the minibrigade movement was renewed, we had the capacity to produce 11 million [cement] blocks. This year's production will be approximately 25 million. After 25 July 1990, when six more lines are operating, we will have the capacity—actual capacity, not theoretical—to produce 55 million blocks per year. [applause] Fifty-five million blocks will be produced with very modern machines. In other words, since 1986....[rephrases] Let's say since 1987, when the minibrigade movement began, to 1990, the production of blocks will have been increased by five times in 3 years. There will be blocks to build walls for tens of thousands of homes. That is not all. The glazed tile factory that used to produce 50 million tiles next year will have the capacity to produce 150 million tiles. There is a (?sequence) there. There are eight plants that produce blocks [words indistinct], or mosaics. I had not mentioned mosaics. The mosaic factories are not that modern, but they are productive. Because the work is relatively hard, we must make it more humane and modernize it. Anyway, the plants are under construction. When they are at full capacity, both the glazed tile factory and the mosaic factory will produce floors for tens of thousands of homes per year.

We also worked on getting more stone, sand. We are also working on the production of bathroom iron pipes, plastic pipes, aluminum windows, and wood carpentry. We are working on the production of white cement. White cement may have been used in this project, although I cannot confirm it right now. However, today when we inaugurated the medical school, I was informed that all of it, inside and out, was painted with white cement.

Our tile factory is already beginning to use Cuban white cement from the new factory. The factory, located in Sancti Spiritus, has the capacity to produce 100,000 tons of white cement which will permit us to have at our disposal the necessary amount to paint hundreds of thousands of homes. All this is in addition to the effort that the basic industry sector is making in the production of oil-based paints with our own raw materials.

I was telling you that during these days I visited several plants, some which are already operating and some partly under construction, others completely under construction. I found a great spirit among the workers. Above all, I found that they want to be contingents. Not all industries lend themselves equally [to the contingent system], it all depends on the type of industry it is. In the mosaic industry, you must give it some thought because of the weight of the molds that are used in the production. We have been thinking about how to make the molds lighter. They would have to be made from much lighter materials, from steel, for example. In other words,

it is not that easy to use the same system, plan, or program in all factories, or the same work spirit. Not all factories are alike. It is much more difficult to do it in an assembly-line factory. However, we do not know how much these factories economize on transportation and supplies. These workers decide to produce the equivalent of two work shifts, and they decide it spontaneously, based on the example of the contingents. I was saying how much Camilo would have liked to have seen these youths that emerged from the revolution, who were born and educated under the revolution. Some people just pay attention to the problems of some youths who go astray. Naturally, how could we have a society without anyone going astray? It would be a dream. We must realize that we needed special schools for tens of thousands of children, but those schools did not exist. What would happen to a young man who dropped out of school because of one problem or another and who took to the streets?. Where would he end up? What would he become? Today, we are building these schools. If they are not built.... [changes thought] Societies that do not build schools of this type will have to build prisons for those children who have no other alternative in life but to end up as antisocial persons, delinquents, or end up looking for some desperate way to make a living. We will not fool ourselves into believing that our revolutionary society that began in 1959.... [changes thought] How many generations of citizens in this country needed this kind of school and did not have it? We have people who go astray, lumpen individuals, and we know it. There are some who went to school but got confused. They let themselves be carried away by certain theories, or street rumors—this is another way of going astray.

However, what we see in our youths everywhere is encouraging about the new generations. We are convinced that with leadership, which must gradually be more efficient, the young can go very far. We were pleased to see the efforts of those workers. We were also pleased to know that, for example, during the second semester of 1989....[does not complete sentence] I would like to know if construction minibrigades, social construction minibrigades, social minibrigades for maintenance, or industrial minibrigades and the construction workers will be able to keep up and use all the tiles that will come out of those factories. Will they be able to keep up with the brick production, which I did not mention, that we will have from the brick factory? Among those factories, there will be a modern factory that will produce 30 million bricks per year. It is about to be finished. I was saying that up until now, we had been suffering every day because we did not have enough materials. But now I wonder if the construction workers and minibrigade workers will be able to keep up and use all the materials that will be produced by that factory, the iron rods factory, and the cement factory. We must also keep in mind the reconstruction of the Mariel [enterprise]. It is a pleasure to think that by next year, Havana could have a myriad of construction projects underway. This is not to say that it does not already have them, however Havana will have many more. Many of the construction workers have pledged to finish several of these plants by 26 July. I have calculated the amount of materials we will have during that semester, beginning in September and I think we will have a great supply of materials for this great battle of transforming the capital and the country. This will be so because what is done in the capital, is also being done in the rest of the country.

I think today there is a new generation honoring, as it should be, the memory of Camilo. I was also thinking about that this afternoon when we inaugurated the medical school. I was talking with the professors and students [about the] the quality of the facilities that the school has. It has two small theaters and one large one. The large one holds 400 people. It is exquisitely built and will soon have the air conditioning system installed. It has sports facilities, a modern gym. It also has a very modern laboratory. The professors are experienced. Today I spoke with dozens of these students and I can assure you that meeting with them is something really encouraging. That is our youth of today. Where is this medical school? It is in Arroyo Naranjo.

As I was saying, there used to be one famous medical school over there on the hill. Today there are over 20 medical schools. The day Camilo died, there were only two medical schools. I do not know if there was also a medical school in Las Villas Province, someone else might know the answer to that. I know that today there are over 20 medical schools. The capital has approximately six medical schools, if I am not wrong. How many do we have now? We have eight schools, including that one we have inaugurated today, right? [indistinct response from audience] Before, students had to go over to the hill, at least the ones who had the privilege to finish high school. They had to try to get a scholarship; actually, there were no scholarships. There might have been some lodging for the student who was from the interior part of the country. Otherwise, a student would have to stop going to school. He could not study because he did not have the means. Today, we have over 25,000 students in medical schools. The schools include stomatology. What else does it include? It includes a bachelor's degree in nursing. [applause] How impressive this is! This symbolizes many things.

I walked into a classroom. There is a teacher there of what is now known as imagery [imaginologia], imagi... what is it, I have already forgotten it. [Laughter] These are images indeed, only that x-ray part is no longer used. Imagery. How was it? Imagery. Sure. Is there a doctor who knows about this? They have taken the x-ray part from it. Every student there had monitors, which are educational aids.

Talking to them, I noted that some of the students came from Latin America. It is easier to spot a Peruvian or a Bolivian than it is to spot someone from Oriente Province. [Laughter, applause] I asked how many foreign students they had there— and you can see here our people's wonderful spirit of solidarity—there are 80 foreign students in that faculty, that is, nearly 10 percent.

If am not mistaken, they should be around here. Where are they? There are 80 students, right? I was told they were attending this ceremony. I do not know where they are. I was told there are 80 foreign students. I saw that they came from various Latin American countries, from Arab countries, from Syria, from Sudan, from Guinea-Bissau. You can see how noble this task is. I wonder whether Camilo would have liked to see this symbol of internationalism and revolutionary spirit in our people [applause] and to find 80 foreign students in a faculty. This calls attention, but there is also something else that calls attention: When I asked how many medical students here came from Arroyo Naranjo, [applause] I was told that two out of three students are from Arroyo Naranjo, two out of three students. These are children of workers and neighbors of Arroyo Naranjo. Is this a giant leap or not, is this a giant leap or not [repeats himself] for the residents and neighbors of Arroyo Naranjo. I suppose they go there because they do not have to go to Havana University.

I asked them how far they lived from school, if they lived nearby; if they were one, two, or three bus stops away; and if these stops were 500 meters or 1,000 meters apart. The university professors of Arroyo Naranjo also live nearby, as well as workers and midlevel technicians of the center. This is really a true symbol on a day like this. How distant our dreams of these things were 30 years ago. We did dream, however, but far into the future.

It is surprising to see how healthy those young people are. Their great health has truly caught our attention, as well as their freshness, their talent, their increasing dedication to their studies. I believe that will be a great faculty, undoubtedly. I was looking at some booklets, books, and saw that they were serious about their studies judging from the notes they had taken. They have every means,and it is truly satisfying to know that our young people have all these opportunities.

There is also another noteworthy fact: Most of those medical students are women. What do you think? A very high percentage of the students are women. This shows the tremendous change that has taken place in our country; between the past and the present; between capitalism and socialism. There is also something there that is very interesting and very encouraging: The school is attended not only by medical and stomatology students, but also by students who are seeking a bachelor's degree in pharmacy—a new career created by the revolution.

There were two groups there: The medical students with their white coats; and the nursing students—those seeking a bachelor's degree in nursing—wearing blue coats, already sharing the same university. Just think of what this means, that in the future our medical services will be performed by specialized doctors in the various areas, or by general practitioners and that our nurses will be graduates with a bachelor's degree from a university. [applause]

This means that all our factories, schools, child care centers, and all our communities will, in the near future, be treated by family doctors and nurses. These are undoubtedly gigantic steps forward. I try to analyze these problems objectively. Well, in which other country is this happening? Our people are united, are fully devoted to the task of addressing problems, and are fully devoted to the task of moving ahead, solidly united with the party and with the revolution.

Comrades, you know that this cannot be found in many places in the world. You are perfectly aware that we are living in a world in which many bizarre things are happening, many complex things, and many things that are incomprehensible. This is why, today, on this the 28th of October, remembering the words of Camilo, we must entrench ourselves in a revolutionary line; we have to entrench ourselves behind our principles; we have to entrench ourselves behind our firm, solid convictions; we have to entrench ourselves behind our Marxist-Leninist ideas more than ever; we have to entrench ourselves behind the ideas of socialism and communism more than ever. [applause]

No one can deceive our people; no one can confuse our people. I can see some red flags over there. On this 30th anniversary of the death of Camilo, who said that our people will never surrender, I want to state here that those red flags of our revolution will never be lowered from their masts, that those red flags of our revolution will never be replaced by the red and yellow flags of the counterrevolution. [applause, shouts of Fidel, Fidel]

We will never renege on our honorable title of socialists and communists [applause] our glorious party, this party of the 20,000 dead mentioned by Camilo and of those who died later while defending the principles, defending the fatherland, defending internationalism, this glorious party will never stop being called Communist Party of Cuba. [applause, shouts of Fidel, Fidel]

This revolution will never renounce its glorious title. To honor those who fell early fighting the mercenaries of Giron, it will never change its historic and glorious name of Socialist Revolution of Cuba. If some day we decide to change the name, it will have to be given the title the Communist Revolution of Cuba. [applause]

It is obvious, gentlemen, that we are experiencing an incredible time. What would Camilo say if he could read a news dispatch from the United States telling us what measures we should take to be good revolutionaries, to be good socialists, and to be good communists; what bourgeois, capitalist reforms we should apply to be considered good revolutionaries, good socialists, good communists; because there are now two types of revolutionaries, two types of socialists, two types of communists: good ones and bad ones [applause] in accordance with an imperialist definition.

What an honor for us that we are among the bad; we are bad, incorrigible because we do not do as we are told by imperialism, because we are not playing or flirting with

capitalism in this country because we have already seen and endured some of the consequences of some of these games. We have already had shock treatment through all that and we do not want any more. More than ever, we have firm, solid convictions in what socialism can achieve. We are more convinced than ever before that no society in history could compare to socialism. We are more convinced than ever that we cannot retreat an inch; we are more convinced than ever that what we should do under these circumstances is to move ahead. We have to do what Camilo did in the Camaguey barracks: Move ahead. Perhaps we are moving ahead of our times, or perhaps there is a trend to go back to old times, but we do not want to go back. We are going through bizarre times. You should see the news dispatches and speeches carried by the bourgeois press, which euphorically, euphorically [repeats himself] state that socialism has ended, that it was a dream, an illusion; that all men should turn back to a shameful, revulsive capitalism. Even the language they use.... [changes thought] today, the advocates of capitalist reform are considered to be progressive: This is the language used in international news dispatches, by the international imagery [laughter]. We will have to coin a new word to describe x-rays.

I contend that international news agencies, which are largely monopolized by the imperialist and capitalist media, have made subtle use of words. To the champions of Marxist-Leninism, to the champions of socialism, to the champions of communism, to those who do not surrender, to those who are firm, to those who do not waver in their ideas, to whose who believe in their ideas, to those who are the most progressive people and who are at the forefront in the world, to those who have not yielded to the imperialist blackmail, to those who have not yielded to the imperialist ideology, to those who have not yielded to the imperialist harassment; they are describing these people as inflexible. Viva inflexibility. [chants of viva] Viva inflexibility when it comes to defending our revolutionary principles. [applause]

These people are also described as conservative. You can see the way the media are distorting and playing with words. Since when has capitalism been progressive? Since when can exploitation of men by men be regarded as progressive? Since when has that filth been progressive? As Marx said, when there is no more exploitation of men by men, when capitalism stops owning the means of production, mankind will have emerged from the pre-historical age, that is, it would have entered the historical age. We have entered the historical age, but if others want to go back to the pre-historical age, that is their own business. They could go and freshen up a little over there, and then they may come back even with renewed vigor [laughter] because they have no idea, this happens with some [words indistinct] of what capitalism is all about. No idea. We have entered the historical age and we will never go back to the pre-historical age. No one is going to confuse us.

They may believe that socialism is already a thing of the past, they may believe that the future lies in capitalism, but there will still be communists who will defend their ideas, there will still be communists who will defend their noble, just, humane cause.

All the things I have mentioned here today—it would have been impossible to even dream of them under capitalism. We have experienced these realities stemming from socialism, whatever the difficulties we are still experiencing, whatever our problems. It was not socialism that created underdevelopment; socialism did not create colonialism; socialism did not create the neocolonialism that is still affecting a large portion of the world. Socialism did not cause the famine of tens of millions of human beings in the various continents. Capitalism caused all this. All this was caused by capitalism.

All of the problems affecting the world today: the arms race, the nuclear threat, the contamination of the environment; the poisoning of the atmosphere, of the rivers, of the seas stem from the chaos, anarchy, the exploitation, of the irresponsibility of capitalism.

We socialists are fighting against those problems, against neocolonialism, against under development, against poverty, against the unfair terms of trade, against the exploitation imposed on our countries by capitalist developed countries. We have not created poverty, but we are waging a head-on struggle against it. We are capable of working a miracle, as the ones our people are achieving now through their efforts made with fewer resources than ever, with less currency than ever. We are indeed learning to do things better; we are learning to save. In the past, we needed 1 cubic meter of lumber to build a 20-cubic meter structure of concrete; today we are building 50 cubic meters with that same amount and we are trying to build 100 cubic meters. In the past, we used more than 600, more than 700 kg of cement for each cubic meter of concrete; today, we are using less than 450 kg of cement. We are learning how to do things, not only just how to saw, how to remove or how to throw something away. We are buildings molds, we are applying techniques and, using the same resources, we are tripling, we are tripling [repeats himself] our potentials.

I wonder what other country is doing what we are doing here today: A program envisaging 204 special schools, which means having 100 percent of our children in special schools. Where else is this being done? What about the efforts we are making, not in this field, but in all other fields, especially in agriculture, in food production, where we are working intensively; in promoting industrial development that are within our reach; in promoting scientific development. Any one who is well aware of what is happening in the world knows that what our people are doing today is a remarkable feat. We owe this feat to socialism, we owe this feat to our people, we owe this feat to our people's revolutionary spirit.

We may be heading toward major difficulties, yes; we may heading toward very major difficulties. Camilo

predicted in Camaguey what could happen, but this will not discourage us. We are working, and we are working with resolve to face all kinds of difficulties.

We have the resolve to build all these schools, perhaps in 5 years, to cite an example, or in 6 years at the most; but if we cannot build them in 5 years, we will build them in 10 years, but we will build them.

We have ambitious housing projects; we want to be able to build 100,000 houses annually as soon as possible. If our efforts are interrupted, if we face major problems and we cannot reach the 100,000 mark, then we will build 70,000 or 80,000 houses, whatever.

We have to be determined to face any difficulty. We must be aware, well-informed, very alert to everything that is going on in the world. Come what may, we will continue to move ahead; come what may, we will continue to struggle for socialism and communism come what may in the world. I do not believe we will be left alone, and even if we were left alone and were the last ones, we would not be discouraged for a single second or moment. This is not in keeping with our history; this is not in keeping with our philosophy; this is not in keeping with Camilo's philosophy; this is not in keeping with Che's philosphy; this was never in keeping with the philosophy of those of us who came aboard the "Granma." How many of us survived? Did we give up? Who can tell us that we are far from our goals. A few decades ago we were much farther away. When we were left alone in the sugarcane field, when our forces were dispersed, when a handful of men regrouped again, was there anything that could discourage us? Nothing. If our struggle seemed absurd to some, it did not seem absurd to us. We had to move forward. We have done just that up until now.

The people know, especially those over 30, what happened during the October crisis. They know that no one was scared then, not even when our country was the target of who knows how many nuclear weapons. No one was discouraged by that; no one here even blinked an eye in the face of that terrible danger. How many problems did the revolution face, the imperialist blockade 30 years ago, the daily threats and harassments, and here it is, without retreating.

Therefore, it is against our tradition, against our philosophy to get discouraged by any difficulty. A complete blockade could take place, one of the worst things that could happen, but we are mentally prepared for it. Besides, we are organized to resist that type of action. The worst thing would be a direct war, a direct war.... [repeats himself] We have long been prepared to face it. We are no longer just a handful of men. There are now millions of men and women who are organized and prepared across the nation to defend themselves against any imperialist aggression.

We are not going to do things so that the imperialists may say that we are good communists, good socialists. We are not going to make concessions of any kind. Imperialism should not even dream of this. We are not going to make any kind of concession. If they want to continue to consider us demons, let them continue to consider us demons. We do not believe in wolves disguised as grandmothers. [laughter]

Our people should thoroughly reflect on these ideas, especially on what they read, on what is happening. It is not easy to thoroughly analyze every detail of all these problems. We must be wise, patient.

You do not have to wait for anyone to tell you to pass judgment on what is happening in the world. We must meditate. This is a time for meditation. I have confidence in the people, in their ability, in their instincts, in their talent—which have never failed them.

In those confusing days, when attempts were made to instill fear in everyone by branding people as communists, or those campaigns to depict communism as something terrible, the people of Camaguey did not hesitate; and despite the fact that the bourgeois press was at that time was encouraging that group, there was not a single Camaguey resident that hesitated. When we arrived in Camaguey that morning, all the people—forming a single body—marched on the barracks.

However, these are times when we need the wonderful intuition of Camilo. It is a time when we need the wonderful boldness of Camilo, the firm conviction of Camilo. I remember when he died I said a few words: There are a lot of Camilos among our people. Camilo emerged from the [word indistinct] of the people. He was able to increase and develop his extraordinary abilities. When I see our youth at the foot of a furnace, when I see them in a laboratory, when I see them working 10, 12, 13, and 14 hours, I am more and more convinced of the deep conviction that there are many Camilos among our people.

When I think about these moments....[changes thought] In our country, people work with enthusiasm, confidence, and safety without fearing anyone or anything, or becoming discouraged—because problems of any sort could arise. Knowing that our people are ready to face anything, are capable of attaining any goal and challenging any danger, and knowing that our people are capable of defending socialism and communism, and Marxism-Leninism until the last drop of blood is shed, I can say with the same conviction of that year: Today, the Cuban people embody one single Camilo!

Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Text of Castro's Message to Panama's Rodriguez

FL0311200089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Correspondent's report from Panama]

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba, has sent a congratulatory message to the president and people of

Panama on the occasion of the 86th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Panama—which is commemorated today, 3 November.

The text of the message sent by our commander in chief was released by the Presidential Press Secretariat of the Republic of Panama. Herewith the text:

His Excellency Mr Francisco Rodriguez Poveda, provisional president of the Republic of Panama:

On the occasion of a new anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Panama, I am pleased to express to Your Excellency and to the fraternal Panamanian people our most cordial congratulations in the name of the people and government of the Republic of Cuba.

We take this opportunity to reiterate to you, on this highly significant anniversary, our support for the struggle being waged—by the courageous isthmian people, the government, and the Defense Forces—to attain full sovereignty over the canal and to decide your destiny in the face of foreign aggression and pressure.

I hereby convey to you our expressions of friendship and best wishes for the welfare of the fraternal Panamanian people and for your personal good fortune.

Signed: Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Coucils of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba.

President Tours Guira de Melena Enterprise

FL0411031989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Report by Andre Castro]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon visited for the third time the Guira de Melena enterprise that manufactures construction equipment in Havana Province.

On the occasion of the day of the metallurgical and electronic worker, Fidel toured several installations. His primary interest was in the production of [words indistinct]. Fidel also asked about the Cuban bulldozers that are manufactured there. Guira de Melena is the pioneer in manufacturing this piece of equipment.

Fidel spoke with several workers on the attention given to the men in that Havana enterprise and he congratulated the collective of workers on their special day.

Deputy Describes Visit to Honduras as Satisfactory

FL0411023389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cuban parliamentarians described the visit they made to Honduras from 23 to 31 October as satisfactory. This is the first official delegation to visit that Central American country since diplomatic relations were broken 28 years ago.

[Begin recording] [Journalist Nuria Cepero] Deputy, what were the Cuban delegation's objectives during this visit?

[Roberto Lopez, head of the Cuban delegation] Our delegation's primary objective was to further expand the ties of friendship that already exist between our parliaments. As you know, three delegations of Honduran parliamentarians have visited us since last year. This visit was in response to an invitation extended to us by the Congress of the Republic of Honduras.

[Cepero] During a press conference held today at the headquarters of the National Assembly of the People's Government, the deputies that visited Honduras discussed the warm welcome they received and the numerous contacts they had with important people in Honduras, including the president of the congress, representatives from the four parties that comprise the congress, and the economic and public health ministers.

During the talks, the parliamentarians and the Honduran officials discussed matters of bilateral political and social interest and they assessed the possibility of exploring areas of mutual cooperation.

[Lopez] The results that we have already assessed are very satisfactory for two main reasons. First of all, because we were able to fulfill the very extensive program they prepared for us and we were also able to include other matters of mutual interest. Secondly, we were able to see first hand what the situation of the Honduran people is and how it affects our people. [end recording]

Official Opens CEMA-Latin America Trade Talks

FL0311213189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Julio Garcia Olivera, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, has stated that trade conveys a message of peace amid the complex economic situation we are experiencing today. He made the statement at the Palace of Conventions at the opening of a meeting between Latin American businessmen and representatives of CEMA member countries.

The strengthening of these ties, Garcia said, will be instrumental in giving Latin American countries—which are besieged by the foreign debt—another alternative; while the CEMA countries, which are undertaking far-reaching political and economic reforms, will secure new trade ties.

Cuba, Garcia said, decided to sponsor this meeting based on its 30 years of fruitful trade with CEMA countries, especially with the Soviet Union.

Cooperation, Friendship Pact Signed With GDR

FL0311163589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1508 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A cooperation and friendship agreement has been signed between the GDR Peasants' Mutual Aid Association and the Cuban National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] in Havana.

After the signing of the agreement, Orlando Lugo Fonte, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the ANAP, said the agreement honors and motivates us. He added that the example of the GDR, ever since the beginning of the cooperation between the two organizations, has had great importance in Cuba for those who work on the land.

Representing the GDR, the document was signed by Sieglinde Sendzik, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association.

The document promotes the exchange of experiences between the two organizations, the formation of ANAP cadres in the GDR agrarian engineering school, and the sending of materials and documents on important international activities of the sector.

Ceremony Marks Anniversary of October Revolution

FL0411144689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The main ceremony marking the 72d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has been held at the Universal Hall of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The opening speech was given by Yuriy Petrov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and ambassador to Cuba, who in a brief but precise manner named the obstacles that have been overcome by his people during these 7 decades of building socialism. Petrov emphasized that the internationalist nature of Soviet policy will be maintained because it is an essential part of socialism.

Discussing present times in his country, the diplomat explained that perestroyka, or restructuring, is facing large problems because it represents a sudden change from traditional ways. However, he added, the CPSU feels that the current problems can be solved.

Presiding over the ceremony were members of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo Jorge Risquet Valdes, Osmani Cienfuegos, and Jose Ramirez Cruz. The event was also attended by other party and state leaders, as well as the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba.

During the closing speech given by Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, he emphasized:

[Begin Balaguer recording] Our historic friendship lives, it is developing and growing more, and there is the will between the two sides to continue strengthening and increasing it. We have great faith in the peoples. We have great faith in the workers, the revolutionary peoples, and the parties of our two countries. [applause] [end recording]

Hart Davalos Greets 125 Internationalists

FL0311193689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Over 125 internationalist combatants last night returned to the fatherland after having honorably fulfilled their mission in Angola. They were received at the airport by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo; Brigade Generals Enrique Carrera from the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Armando Lopez Horta from the Ministry of the Interior; as well as other leaders from political and mass organizations. [passage omitted]

More Internationalists Arrive

FL0411154089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Over 140 internationalist combatants arrived last night in the fatherland from the People's Republic of Angola. They were welcomed by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo, as well as high ranking chiefs and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Three 'Leftist' Leaders Arrested 2 November

FL0311125889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Three men described as leftist leaders were arrested in Haiti yesterday. The three were detained by national guardsmen in Carrefour after signing a statement calling on Haitians to rally against the government. The three, along with 20 other organizations, are part of the opposition coalition called the National Assembly which has denounced the government for alleged human rights abuses and stiff austerity measures.

Avril Assassination Plot Disclosed

FL0311190389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Army has arrested three members of the National Assemblage, which is comprised of diverse organizations that led the 27 September strike. The Assemblage announced intentions to hold an antigovernment demonstration on 29 November, the 2d anniversary of the aborted first general elections in Haiti in 30 years and of the Vaillant Street massacres.

The three citizens arrested are Jean Auguste Mesyeux of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH]; Evans Paul, also known as Kompe Plim, the head of the KID, Confederation for Democratic Unity; and Etienne Marino, a former Army soldier and the number two man in the 17 September People's Organization [OP-17]. Meanwhile, Patrick Beauchard, the head of OP-17—which is made up of soldiers who were fired from the Army after the 17 September events—is being aggressively sought by the police.

There have been many protests following these arrests. CATH Executive Secretary Yves Antoine Richard has denounced the arrests, calling them illegal. He is demanding that these three citizens be released. Let's listen to his version of how the arrests were made and how the CATH views the future.

[Begin Richard recording] He had just left a meeting and was on his way home, sometime between 1800 and 1830. All along the way, he saw that he was being followed by a number of military vehicles. The military vehicles flashed a light at them to stop. They stopped normally. They got out of the car.

All the military were dressed in olive green and heavily armed. They began telling everyone in the area to clear out. Then the military put a number of weapons, dynamite, M-16 carbines,—many weapons—inside the vehicle, so they could say that we had them in our possession. We do not have any weapons. What we have are books and awareness. We educate the people, so that they can demand their rights. It is these rights they fear. They don't want us to make the Haitian people aware so that they will demand their rights.

Also, we believe the arrests took place at 1830. According to the Constitution, people cannot be arrested after 1800. This is an illegal, stupid, and barbarous arrest that violates human rights and our Haitian Constitution. They have violated the Constitution. We think the Haitian people must mobilize and await a watchword from CATH, which is fighting for greater well being for peasants and workers whose blood is being sucked dry in the factories and who are being fired for union activity and who are trampled on when they (?demand) their rights and ask for wage increases. [end recording]

Paul, Mesyeux, and Marino have been in jail for 3 days [as heard]. [passage omitted] An Information Ministry press release says the following:

[Begin recording] (?The Directorate of) Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination, as per a communique [word indistinct] at the General Headquarters of the Port-au-Prince Police, informs that on Wednesday 1 November, at 1745, on (Orleon) Street, off Arcachon 32, the police arrested several people, among them Evans Paul, Etienne Marino, and Jean Auguste Mesyeux.

The police found, at these people's house, three M-14 rifles; three UZI machine guns; one Galil rifle, unassembled; many 9-mm shells; and dynamite.

These people's objective was to establish terrorist activities to assassinate the president of the military government, eliminate all FADH officers, and kill certain prominent civilians, and form a popular militia.

The police are looking for certain other people implicated in this affair, such as: Patrick Beauchard, (Germain Sonthonax), (Saintil Vilex), (Joseph Klebert), (Philemon Rene), (Houpette Kasner), (Altidor Jean Alipson), (Jethrie Figaro), and (Timothee Jean-Franck). All these people implicated in this affair are being sought by the police.

[signed] Port-au-Prince, 2 November 1989, Directorate of Information. [end recording]

Next came the declaration of Major Leopold (Clerjeune), who heads the Antigang Service, which came to buttress the Information Ministry press release.

[Begin (Clerjeune) recording] A FADH soldier was contacted by former Sergeant Patrick Beauchard and Marino. Take a look to my right here, so you can understand well who these people are. You can see Evans Paul, alias K. Plim; Etienne Marino; and Jean Auguste Mesyeux.

As we said, there is a FADH soldier who was contacted by Patrick Beauchard and Marino. Also, they held a meeting at the Carrefour home of an important political personality. This soldier reported this to his superior. They had promised to give him $7,000: a $5,000 advance payment and $2,000 more later, after the [words indistinct] had been accomplished. Also, once he had gotten these $2,000, after everything had been done successfully, this soldier was to become a major, later, or (?the day after).

This soldier was ordered by his superiors to accept the money from these men and, as for the rest of it, his superiors would [word indistinct] the (?matters).

Planning went on. The contacts multiplied. And on Thursday, 2 November, at 2200, this soldier was to have assassinated the president of the Republic, the head of the military government, and his closest collaborators, as well as all officers and noncoms of the FADH and certain civilian personalities.

On the very day these final plans were to be made—that is, yesterday afternoon. They promised this soldier they would give him dynamite and gunpowder [poudre a canon], and show him—Etienne Marino was to do this—how to take this stuff to a number of key places in the National Palace so it could explode and make noise while they...[rephrases] while the action took place. This was for the purpose of creating a generalized panic inside the National Palace during this situation.

[Words indistinct] show them that he understood what they were doing, that he agreed with it, to show his trust in them, they asked him to bring them a Galil rifle. The soldier took them that unassembled Galil rifle there. He really did it. He took them that Galil rifle there. If you take a look, you can see it. That Galil rifle there. He did indeed take it to them, yesterday afternoon. And it was on that same day that he was to have received the money—and Marino was to have shown him how to place the dynamite.

On that same occasion, this faithful soldier, this soldier who respects himself, this upright soldier told them that he did not have a clip for the Galil rifle. K. Plim, Evans Paul, whom you can see here, told the soldier: That's no problem. We'll get you ammunition. This means that Kompe Plim has many munitions stashed away somewhere.

We are not inventing this about him. He admitted it during the interrogation. Auguste Mesyeux also said it, (?said that) he had heard it.

Well, from that time on, the forces of order were following the movements, following everything point by point. Thus, yesterday afternoon, at around 1700, they surprised these three men in a house—No 78, (Orleon) Street, off Arcachon 32—holding a secret meeting. It was an important thing. Well, they were surprised by the forces of order and were arrested.

There were other people there too, standing in front of the house. They were either waiting for other important personalities who were to have come to the meeting or guarding the house. When the forces of order approached, these men fled. They got away—for example Patrick Beauchard, who was in a small, white, four-door car, probably a Toyota. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Second announcer] The Nationalistic Christian Party of Haiti, or PNCH—whose headquarters is on Tiremasse Street and which is headed by (Armand Sanon)—has a word to say about these arrests. Let's listen to (Sanon), who, as we said, is the leader of the PNCH.

[Begin (Sanon) recording] People of Haiti, this is the General Secretariat of the Nationalistic Christian Party of Haiti, PNCH, formerly known as the Assembly for a Liberated Haiti [Rafal].

The party has learned, with stupefaction and consternation, of the arrest of Jean Auguste Mesyeux and Kompe Plim, with whom we have always maintained contact and whom we have always known to be peaceable and pacifist men. We have heard, throughout Haiti, that these men have been arrested. They have been filmed.

The country is currently under the Constitution of 1987. Consequently, we think that all statements made by the government through the police about the arrest of these members of the Haitian masses are completely groundless. An interrogation is only binding if it takes place in the presence of these men's lawyers.

We do not wish to judge anyone's motivations. We must, however, remain within the norms of the law and adhere to the Constitution, which has been in force for a long time.

Thus, Attorney (Armand Sanon), president of the Nationalistic Christian Party of Haiti, with Alexandre (Azard), secretary general of the party, is issuing this statement to the government, so that the government is advised and will allow these men to call their lawyers so if there is an interrogation or if they are to answer questions, they can do so in the presence of their lawyers.

Thank you, people of Haiti. Thank you, Radio Soleil. [end recording]

Political Leaders React

FL0311213889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer, in French] We have some reaction [to the arrest of alleged plotters] from political leaders.

[Reporter Rothschild, in French] The head of the political party Mobilization for National Development [MDN], Hubert de Ronceray, feels these arrests clearly highlight the difference between what Prosper Avril's government says and what it does. De Ronceray, who is also a member of the [National] Assemblage, which had called for an antigovernment demonstration, thinks the illegal detention of these three political and union militants represents a threat to everyone.

[Begin de Ronceray recording] We of the MDN consider these acts by the military government to be a war of nerves, aimed at wiping out this nation's last reserves and re-establishing with greater power the dictatorial system of 1957-86. We of the MDN are very alarmed and very indignant over these arbitrary and repressive methods that General Avril's military government is putting back into force in this country at a time when we thought the march toward democracy was irreversible, as he has often repeated in his speeches. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Rothschild, in French] Eddy Volel's Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC] feels this reaction on the part of the government is not surprising, since Avril, Volel says, had a plan to destabilize the popular movements by making arrests. This is truly scandalous, says Volel, who calls for the release of the three arrested militants.

[Begin Volel recording] Back after the death of Gregory Delpe, we of the RDC had learned that Prosper Avril was to effect a roundup and arrest politicians, heads of political parties, heads of vigilance brigades, and union leaders. [passage omitted]

They arrested these men [Mesyeux, Paul, and Marino] in Duvalier fashion, in order to defuse all the movements of generalized protest that there are going to be.

We of the RDC say that there were a group of bandits in prison. Prosper Avril has let these bandits out and has given them weapons, authority, and power. If he wanted to arrest people who have weapons, he knows full well where the weapons are, and he also knows who is committing crimes in the street. He should have arrested these people. [passage omitted]

We know that these men have not talked. We know they are not guilty. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, if they are arresting people for coups d'etat, well, they showed three people over television in connection with a coup d'etat, but they should have shown four—because Prosper Avril too is guilty of a coup d'etat. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer, in French] Sylvio Claude, president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, says he is very upset over these arrests. Claude thinks the arrests are a provocation. Claude says Avril has now shown the public that he is truly a shameless dictator.

[Begin Claude recording] This is a way of intimidating the population, of saying to the population: Look at what will happen to you if you continue. [passage omitted]

Beating the arrested men means that this is something they did systematically to convey the message to the population: Look at their condition. If you continue, we will crush you in the same way.

Now, this is serious! Why? Because even when Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier beat someone, they had the decency to hide him so that no one could see him, because they knew the Constitution said you could not beat people. They at least paid lip service to respect for the Constitution, so to speak. They would do it, but would hide it, so people wouldn't see and accuse them of violating the Constitution. Whereas this guy, Avril, he doesn't care a fig about the Constitution or the law or anything. He is a shameless dictator, as I said yesterday! [passage omitted]

I don't think the press can keep quiet about this. Nobody can keep quiet about this, because this case constitutes a threat to everyone.

However Sylvio Claude says: This kind of little thing is child's play for me. Not only have I already been through it and am familiar with it, but also this kind of thing can no longer intimidate the Haitian people. Oh, it might intimidate a few people; however, it will not intimidate the majority of the Haitian people, because the Haitian people know this is a means Avril is employing to shut their mouths, to intimidate them so he can do whatever he wants.

Thus, we are announcing to him that he is going to get a firm protest from the Assemblage. They are going to demand that Avril explain why he beat these men, (?going to protest) the violation of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

We say he is a an unblushing dictator, fully aware of what he is doing—that is, he is not afraid of anyone, of any.... [changes thought] Now, that makes me feel that he is now being backed by (?the biggest) powers, because you would think he would at least be embarassed to have the U.S. ambassador see a person in that condition on television! When the French ambassador, who is protecting Avril, sees someone in that condition on television, well, you would think they would be embarassed to protect, to speak out on behalf of, a man who violates his own Constitution! However, Avril feels himself to be so well-seated, so supported by these great powers, that he can do whatever he wants. [end recording]

[Rothschild, in French] [Passage omitted] However, the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] considers these arrests truly shameful for Haiti. The PUCH also says it thinks President Avril is lying, totally. In this connection, the PUCH recalls the speech Avril made at the Antigang Service after General Namphy's overthrow. The PUCH also points out contradictions in the statements made by the police regarding these arrests.

[Begin Max Bourjolly recording] We have noted, with great indignation and stupefaction, the way National Haitian Television last night exhibited K. Plim, alias Evans Paul; Etienne Marino; and Auguste Mesyeux. We saw that these citizens had been mistreated horribly. The shape they are in shows that the government does not respect the international agreements it has signed on torture. And I remind you that following the 17 September coup, when Gen Avril took power, he went to the Port-au-Prince Police, where he said in a speech that this business of arresting someone and rushing to beat him was bad. However, back then was a period when the enlisted men had something to say about things, and the soldier's conditions stipulating that an end be put to torture and that the criminal investigations brigade be changed to the antigang brigade had just been issued. Thus, things were hot, and (?Avril) had flowed with the current. However, today things are different. All the terror—along with all its leaders—of the Francois Duvalier period has reappeared and spread throughout the country. We are shocked and indignant.

Also, we note many contradictions in these people's statements. In a first statement, they said these men had weapons in their possession. In a second statement, they said they found the weapons where the men were. In a third, they said they found the weapons in the car. I mean, even among the government that is heading this business, they cannot even reach agreement on a single story. Thus, we realize it is something hastily prepared, something not prepared carefully. Thus, it is a setup [scenario].

Second, we also note that no formal report was written up by a justice of the peace, when they said they found

these men with weapons in their possession. And we know that people can be made to say anything, through torture. Thus, if it is true that they made the statements the authorities claim they made, they made the men talk, through torture. So, in any case, the statements made by the prisoners have no value for public opinion at the present time. What is valid for us is that there is a setup, a desire to crush the Assemblage, a desire to impose [fe pase] the International Monetary Fund's policy—and I think that is the problem. I think the government is afraid of the agenda for action that has been announced, and rushed to take the offensive, heavy-handedly.

However, we think this will fail to intimidate the population, and that the demonstrations will take place anyway.

And I seize this opportunity to say to the political leaders who have put themselves under the government's wing so that it can hold for them the kind of election it held for Manigat on 17 September that they too must raise their voices loudly to condemn these acts of intimidation and terrorism that have just been committed against the democratic sector, so that public opinion will not point the finger at them too, as accomplices to what is being done here. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was PUCH number two man Max Bourjolly.

Lawyers Committee Protests Torture

FL0311210889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The Haitian Lawyers Committee condemns the violation by the Haitian military authorities of the domicile of lawyer Joseph Maxi, who is the president of the Haitian Human Rights League.

In a press release, the Haitian Lawyers Committee says that by virtue of the 10 December 1984 UN agreement on torture, an agreement signed and ratified by the Republic of Haiti, the committee protests the inhuman and degrading torture inflicted on citizens Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marino. By virtue of Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, the Haitian Lawyers Committee demands of the Justice Ministry that citizens Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marino be taken to court immediately.

This protest note is signed by Attorney Moyse Senatus, executive director of the Haitian Lawyers Committee.

Costa Rica

Arias, Venezuela's Perez on El Salvador Dialogue

PA0411005989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2238 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias are working hard to break the impass in the talks between the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government in hopes that the impass will be only temporary.

Today in San Jose, Arias announced that on 6 November he will meet in San Jose with representatives of the Salvadoran rebels, adding that he had talked with President Perez on the need to "call on the parties involved to maintain their willingness to talk."

The Costa Rican president, who did not disclose the time and place of his meeting with the rebels,, said that his goal is to "urge them to promise that the suspension of the dialogue will only be temporary."

Arias, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his peacemaking efforts in Central America, admitted, however, that "this may not be the best time for the talks between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to be resumed."

In the past 8 days in El Salvador, there have been several attacks on military installations and labor union headquarters, during which 10 persons were killed and many injured.

The Salvadoran guerrillas decided to suspend the talks with the government—the first round of talks held in Mexico City in September and the second round in San Jose, Costa Rica, in October—following the 31 October attack on a labor union headquarters in San Salvador that resulted in the deaths of 10 labor leaders.

"I view this interruption of the dialogue with great sadness and regret; however, I believe that this is only a stumbling block in a peace process that is not a very easy one," the Costa Rican president said.

President Arias said that he had asked his Venezuelan colleague—who was to have hosted the next round of talks between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN—to join in his efforts to urge the parties involved to maintain their willingness to talk "when the situation improves."

"On the path for peace there will be times when steps backwards are taken—like the one currently being taken in El Salvador and previously in Nicaragua," President Arias said in allusion to the decision made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's government not to extend the cease-fire with the contras.

El Salvador

Government To Attend Caracas Dialogue Meeting

PA0411015289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0108 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Nov, (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today announced that his government will attend the meeting with the Salvadoran guerrillas scheduled for 20 November in Caracas, (Venezuela), despite the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) decision to suspend the dialogue.

Cristiani disclosed that the government will investigate the circumstances of the attack that killed 10 trade union members on 31 October, which the FMLN has blamed on Army and government sectors. On that date, the FMLN decided to suspend the dialogue that had began on 17 October in Costa Rica.

However, the Salvadoran president rejected "the irresponsible and malicious accusations made by the FMLN that the attack had been carried out by the Armed Forces with the authorization of the president of the Republic."

After suspending the dialogue, the Salvadoran guerrillas asked the United Nations, the OAS, and the Salvadoran Catholic Church "for guarantees for opposition organizations."

The presidents of Costa Rica and Venezuela, Oscar Arias and Carlos Andres Perez, respectively, today offered their mediation to get the dialogue under way.

Guerrillas Urged To Attend

PA0411035389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0217 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Nov (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today asked the guerrillas to reconsider their decision not to attend the meeting scheduled for the 3d week of November in Caracas, Venezuela, and announced that he is prepared to let a group of "international experts" investigate this week's massacre of 10 members of a union.

Cristiani said during a news conference that the FMLN "should, far from suspending the dialogue, recognize that the search for peace is now more necessary than ever in order to stop the bloodshed."

He said that the government's dialogue commission will keep the appointment with the guerrillas on 20-21 November in Caracas. He added that "we will not withdraw from the negotiating table."

After alleged right-wing death squads placed a car bomb in front of a union's headquarters on 26 October, killing 10 union leaders and wounding 30 others, the guerrillas blamed the Army and announced the suspension of the dialogue.

However, in a communique released today, the government said that categorically rejects the irresponsible and ill-intentioned accusations raised by the FMLN in the sense that the massacre was carried out by the Armed Forces with the knowledge of the president of the Republic."

Cristiani said he is willing to allow an international commission investigate the killing of the labor leaders. Cristiani said the commission could be made up of "representatives of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Catholic Church, the political parties, labor organizations, Catholic University (UCA) Rector Ignacio Ellacuria, the attorney general of the Republic, and the justice minister."

Cristiani was accompanied by Defense Minister General Humberto Larios and Colonel Emilio Ponce, chief of the Army General Staff, when making the statements.

The Salvadoran president recalled that both the FMLN and the government "have a commitment not to withdraw unilaterally from the dialogue," so the guerrillas' withdrawal from the talks "not only constitutes a violation of the Mexico agreements but undercuts the people's hopes for peace."

Finally, Cristiani said that he hopes the guerrillas will find it possible to attend the meeting in Caracas after they meet with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias on 6 November.

More on Cristiani, Ponce Comments

PA0411044589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani today announced his government's decision to continue the dialogue process with the rebels, despite the FMLN unilateral decision to suspend the talks.

The president also said that he will create a commission that will be in charge of investigating the attack on FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation].

President Cristiani denied that the attack on FENASTRAS was perpetrated by the Armed Forces with authorization from the president, as the FMLN states in its latest communique, which also announces the organization's decision not to attend the next meeting in Caracas, Venezuela.

Cristiani said that the government is willing to investigate the incident, which has disturbed the entire country, and he confirmed the creation of a commission formed by international organizations and various national sectors. Cristiani also announced the arrival in El Salvador of a group of experts to support the Criminal Actions Investigations Commission [Comision Investigadora de Hechos Delictivos].

[Cristiani] "The government has decided to name a commission to guarantee the investigation, and it will issue the following invitations: one representative from the United Nations, one representative from the OAS, one representative from the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference, one representative from the political parties, two representatives from labor organizations, one of them being from FENASTRAS, Ignacio Ellacuria [Jesuit priest and rector of the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University], the attorney general, and the justice minister."

During the same news conference, President Cristiani said that even though the rebels have decided to suspend the next meeting with the government, the government's dialogue commission will be at the meeting place on the date agreed upon.

[Cristiani] "We are going to continue to fully develop the government's proposal, and we will be in Caracas on 20 November. The government will remain firm, and throughout the dialogue process it will seek peace. Naturally, the Salvadoran Armed Forces will do everything that falls within their constitutional responsibility to try to safeguard security and public order within the country."

Cristiani said he regrets Nicaraguan President Ortega's decision to suspend the cease-fire, saying that it is an attitute that undoubtedly will affect the regional peace effort. He attributed the decision to nearness of the upcoming elections in Nicaragua.

[Cristiani] "In analyzing the decision, one might think that it is completely logical because the election process may, perhaps, be slipping out of his hands, and he may need to hinder the normal development of the election process in Nicaragua. In Costa Rica I had the opportunity to see the results of a poll taken in Nicaragua by the Gallup organization regarding the progress made in the Nicaraguan election process. In that poll the opposition, Mrs Chamorro, was 4 points ahead of Daniel Ortega. This could be accurate because the truth is that the his position on the cease-fire was somewhat ill-timed in view of all the progress that has been made in Central America."

Cristiani's news conference was attended by high-ranking military commanders who revealed an FMLN plan aimed at causing a rebellion in the country in the near future. Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce said that documents seized from the rebels show that they have prepared four phases which include organizing a general strike, creating a division within the Armed Forces, creating an atmosphere of violence in the capital, and ending with a rebellion.

[Ponce] "We believe that they will step up their actions in what they call the urban warfare. Their actions will possibly be carried out in the capital to have more publicity. Anyway, the general staff has prepared the necessary documents and plans to counter violence, regardless of its origins, which is aimed at disrupting our

internal order—particularly in the capital. We have information to this effect from documents we seized."

President Alfredo Cristiani also referred to this and said that instead of suspending the dialogue and increasing its violent actions the FMLN should understand that the search for peace is now more necessary than ever to stop the bloodshed.

The president said it is evident that the enemies of peace are trying to make the peace process begun in Mexico City fail with their violent attitude.

FMLN Urged To Reconsider

PA0411145589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1206 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly, has criticized the FMLN guerrillas for suspending the dialogue. He also urged them to reconsider their decision and to participate in talks with the government's delegation slated for 20 and 21 November in Venezuela.

Alvarenga Valdivieso noted there are groups in the country seeking to hinder the dialogue, but he did not specify who these groups are. He stressed that the guerrillas should not withdraw from the talks in this manner as they would be violating the document they signed in Mexico.

The president of the Salvadoran Legislative Branch requested that the FMLN leadership change their attitude and talk with the government in Caracas, Venezuela.

Vice President Comments

PA0411204389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino says that the guerrillas are hurting themselves by carrying out attacks such as the one perpetrated recently. He said the rebels are acting like ostriches by hiding their heads under the sand.

[Begin recording] [Merino] Logically that is no solution. They must realize that the people have rejected them. The people condemn all of these actions. The latest attacks are hurting the FMLN itself. They have been isolated internationally, the people have rejected them, and the government and the army are fulfulling their constitutional role. Therefore, they must continue with the talks and participate in them seriously by reaching agreements that can bring peace to all. The terrorist aggression makes no sense.

[Reporter] What is the government's position? Will it continue with the talks? Will it go to the talks even if the guerrilla commanders do not attend?

[Merino] The government definitely has a commitment to the people. It is a commitment the government has made. Besides our willingness to achieve peace we are also committed to these talks. We will continue on this road. It is certainly a difficult road but we must continue on it. I believe that the San Jose meeting like the one in Caracas, and maybe others after that, has been quite difficult. However, we have discussed all the problems and the guerrillas will logically reach the conclusion that they will have to sit down at the table.

[Reporter] They ask for guarantees for labor organizations.

[Merino] I believe we cannot give them more guarantees than the ones we have already given them. There is a general feeling that these people only understand strong actions. However, the government has reviewed the situation quite well, and we are not going to fall into that trap or make that mistake. Otherwise, we would give them the opportunity to accuse the government. We will logically be prudent. [end recording]

Vice President Merino said that despite the difficulties the government is determined to continue the dialogue. The FMLN guerrillas withdrew from the talks and demanded security for labor union organizations following the attack against FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], in which 10 labor union members were killed, including opposition leader Elizabeth Velazquez.

Next week, guerrilla leaders will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica with President Oscar Arias to seek solutions to the complex situation in El Salvador.

FMLN Official Interviewed on Cristiani, Talks

PA0511024289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Interview with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Commander Salvador Sanchez, alias Commander Leonel Gonzalez, member of the FMLN General Command, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, on Friday [3 November] night Mr Alfredo Cristiani announced some measures which the government will adopt in connection with FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] and the dialogue. The FMLN announced it had suspended its trip to Caracas, but Cristiani said that the government commission will go to Caracas regardless of our decision. What is your opinion on the government's decision?
[Gonzalez] In my opinion, two positions on the dialogue and the negotiations process were made evident in San Jose. The government of Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces High Command view the dialogue as an opportunity for talking, buying time, and building a good image for themselves. On the other hand, the FMLN is working for a real negotiations process. The FMLN has opened a broader debate, a debate that includes discussions with and the participation of political parties, the

social forces, the church, all the sectors. We have initiated a national dialogue. As we see it, the goal is part of a whole, it is not everything. The entire process of allowing the participation of the social forces is important also.

In recent days we have seen actions unprecedented in the history of El Salvador. There was the attack on workers in which 10 workers died and 31 were injured. The FMLN cannot ignore this fact. This is part of the process. We have said that we are going to establish contact with observers and mediators to analyze the situation, and we will discuss this process with the political parties and the social forces. What we want is to consolidate the negotiations process. We are not trying to enhance our image; our people know who is telling the truth.

In San Jose we made a solution proposal that envisages democracy, human rights, and a process to find a way out of the Salvadoran conflict. On Monday and Wednesday [6 and 8 November] of next week we are going to meet in Washington with OAS and UN representatives. Also on Monday in San Jose, Costa Rica, we could be in contact with the Costa Rican Government to analyze the situation.

We will analyze developments to determine the position of the Cristiani government. If actions by the Cristiani government close the possibilities of Caracas, then we will adopt measures. What we have done is to announce a suspension to create conditions for making progress toward real negotiations, as the San Jose Agreements establish.

[Reporter] Then why is the government going to Caracas, Commander?

[Gonzalez] I believe that the announcement on the government delegation going to Caracas is aimed at enhancing the government's image, at creating a smoke screen around the massacre committed against the popular movement.

[Reporter] Now that you mention the FENASTRAS massacre, what do you think about the creation of a commission to investigate this case that Cristiani has announced?

[Gonzalez] One of the points of our San Jose proposal calls for changing the Salvadoran legal system because it is vitiated and is in the hands of one single party. So, in this framework, conducting an investigation is like putting the case inside a forgotten drawer. This is what happened to the Monsignor Romero case, the case of the Revolutionary Democratic Front leaders, and the cases of thousands of workers who have been murdered and whose cases have been forgotten. The purpose of this commission is to create a smoke screen around the grave human rights violations being committed by the Cristiani government. We believe that the persons who have been invited to form part of this commission should not lend themselves to playing a part in the effort to hide what is really behind all this. What the Cristiani government wants is to divert away from Emilio Ponce all the accusations and charges, and Ponce is the one who is directly involved in this kind of attack. The state policy of the Cristiani government is repression, and this state policy is being implemented by the Cristiani Government, Cristiani, and the high command, and they are doing it through the repressive bodies, regardless of whether they function as civilians, as death squads, or in uniform.

[Reporter] Commander, what can the popular movement, the labor unions, and the humanitarian organizations do in the face of a government and a military leadership that carry out this type of attack, this type of massacre, in a legal framework that offers no guarantee to the popular movement? What can the popular movement do?

[Gonzalez] I believe that the Cristiani government is closing all the roads to a peaceful solution of this conflict. Through repression it is closing off the possibility of labor unions and associations resolving their problems peacefully. The government is closing off the possibility of negotiations. The Army and the Cristiani government are opposed to true negotiations. The people have no alternative. In El Salvador there is a latent path, the path of armed actions. At this moment, as this government increases repression, armed actions become increasingly legitimate, armed actions to find solutions to the conflict, armed actions to stop the repression by the regime.

The workers and their associations and labor unions are entitled to defend themselves and their labor benefits. Defense is legitimate. It is legitimate for the workers to decide to defend themselves the armed way, through violence. It is the Cristiani government, Ponce, and the High Command who are leaving the workers no alternative.

[Reporter] To conclude, commander: In recent hours there have been attacks in the capital, including bomb attacks on the residences of democratic leaders such as Ruben Zamora and Aronete Diaz, an attack on the residence of Colonel Carranza, and an attack on a relative of Colonel Lopez Huila, among others. The Armed Forces and the government have publicly said that the FMLN is responsible for these attacks.

[Gonzalez] Our armed actions are highly just and have political motivations. Our objectives are strictly military. All our guerrilla units function according to this principle, be it in the rural areas or in the cities where our urban commandos operate.

The attack on the Armed Forces staff installations and other operations against military targets are our responsibility. The FMLN's policy is not to attack relatives of military men or politicians. The High Command has been trying to confuse the people here and abroad. What is its objective? To cover up its repressive policy. It is escalating its actions. It has gone from the selective

capture and murder of leaders to mass arrests, and from mass arrests it has moved into genocide and indiscriminate attacks.

It is clear that its objective is the social organizations. The government said it in San Jose. It is evident that the High Command is trying to create confusion, but the people abroad and we know that our actions are aimed at military objectives.

FMLN To Meet With Dialogue Mediators

PA0511213089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1921 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Nov (AFP)—It has been reported in this capital that a delegation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) will meet this week in Washington with UN and OAS representatives to analyze the country's situation and the future of the talks between the rebels and Alfredo Cristiani's administration.

Commander Leonel Gonzalez, one of the five FMLN general command members, issued a statement through Radio Venceremos—the official voice of the guerrilla organizations—and said that the meetings will start tomorrow 6 November.

Other FMLN delegates will meet tomorrow with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who has stated his concern regarding the talks between the rebels and Cristiani's government after right-wing squads assassinated 10 labor leaders.

Commander Gonzalez said "that the Cristiani administration's double-faced conduct is precluding the possibilities for achieving a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict."

"The Cristiani administration and the Army oppose real negotiations, and their concept of a dialogue is to talk and talk—but only to gain time and project a good image at the national and international level," the rebel leader said.

Referring to this, Gonzalez asserted that the government's decision to send its delegation to the 20-21 November meeting in Caracas, whether the guerrilla representatives attend it or not, is aimed at "creating a smoke screen to cover the massacres perpetrated this week against the people's movement."

Commander Gonzalez also referred to Cristiani's announcement that a commission will be created with the participation of UN and OAS delegates to investigate the 10 labor leaders' massacre.

"It is impossible to carry out an investigation with a corrupt judicial system like the one in El Salvador ," Gonzalez said. He recalled that the authorities have not been able to solve the murder of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in 10 years. The guerrilla blames Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, one of the government party's ideologists, for Romero's murder.

The FMLN commander also warned that the Army "has launched a campaign to confuse national and world opinion by accusing the guerrillas of perpetrating terrorist actions."

The Armed Forces actually want "to cover up their repressive policy because they have shifted from selective arrests to mass arrests—and from genocide to indiscriminate attacks," he added.

The guerrilla commander also announced that the guerrilla forces will maintain a high level of military actions throughout the country as long as there is no possibility of continuing a real dialogue-negotiation process which leads the country to an everlasting peace.

FENASTRAS Attack Claimed Staged by FMLN

PA0411160989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1212 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Salvador, has stated that the dynamite attack against the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] headquarters was staged by the guerrillas who were seeking to create confusion and justify their withdrawal from the dialogue.

The officer added that the bomb exploded inside the building and was not hurled from the outside as the union leaders claimed. He noted that objects flew outside the building, which means that the explosion occurred inside the building. Therefore, he stressed, this was the work of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] which wants to confuse the people and use these attacks as a pretext for not participating in the government-guerrillas talks.

Archbishop's Mediation Requested

PA0411164089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1222 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation, FENASTRAS, will request the San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas to mediate between the workers and the government and the Armed Forces High Command, in view of the most recent actions against the labor movement.

Bernabe Recinos, a high-ranking FENASTRAS leader, said that Msgr Rivera y Damas' mediation is necessary in this confrontation in order to alleviate the current tension. He said FENASTRAS will file a lawsuit soon against Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce and 1st Infantry Brigade Commander Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, and will charge them with being directly responsible for the dynamite attack against the FENASTRAS headquarters, where 10 union leaders—including Febe Elizabeth Velasquez—were killed.

Government Responds to FMLN Communique

PA0411214689 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Government communique read by President Alfredo Cristiani; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Concerning the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] communique, the Salvadoran Government hereby announces the following:
1. On the day of the terrorist attack against FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], the government strongly condemned the attack and announced its plans to carry out a thorough investigation. However, it is regrettable that FENASTRAS leaders have been hindering the investigations that could clear up the attack.

Nonetheless, the government reiterates its determination to carry out a thorough investigation, and will even bring to the country some experts in this field so that with the help of modern science and technology they will help the investigative committee clarify this bloody and criminal attack and establish who is responsible.

Likewise, the government has decided to appoint a commission that will guarantee the investigations, and it will invite the following: one representative from the United Nations; one representative from the OAS; one representative from the Salvadoran Bishops' Conference; one representative from the political parties; two labor union representatives, one of them being from FENASTRAS; Dr Ignacio Ellacuria [Jesuit priest and rector of the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University]; the attorney general of the Republic; and the minister of justice.
2. The Government of the Republic has supplied evidence from the beginning that it is sincerely seeking peace. The Dialogue Commission attended a first meeting with the FMLN in Mexico, and accepted a commitment, as follows, and I quote: Both parties commit themselves not to withdraw unilaterally from the dialogue.

The FMLN's withdrawal from the dialogue is not only a violation of the Mexico agreement, but also [word indistinct] the Salvadoran people's hopes for peace. Far from suspending the dialogue, the FMLN should understand that the search for peace is now more necessary than ever in order to halt the bloodshed.
3. Evidently, in situations like this one, the enemies of peace are trying to make the dialogue fail. The recent terrorist actions are an insult to the civilized mechanisms that have come up at the negotiations table.

The government hereby notifies the Salvadoran people and the international community that the Dialogue Commission will continue to do its work, and it will not withdraw from the talks in spite of the sorrowful events that have brought more mourning to the Salvadoran people in recent days.

4. In these difficult moments that our country is experiencing, the government reiterates its call for the people to remain calm, so that in a prudent and understanding manner we will join efforts to help reach peace and not promote violence, which only serves to hinder the dialogue.
[Issued] San Salvador, 3 November 1989

FENASTRAS Refuses To Join Commission

PA0511210489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1913 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) today rejected President Alfredo Cristiani's invitation to join the commission responsible for investigating the bomb attack against the federation's headquarters on Tuesday, 31 October which resulted in 10 deaths and 30 injured.

"We are against the creation of the commission because it does not respresent the interests of the Salvadoran people. It only seeks to improve the international image of Alfredo Cristiani's rightist government," said Humberto Centeno, a main union leaders.

Cristiani promised to investigate the attack with the participation, as guarantors, of delegates from the OAS, the UN, the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference, two labor unions—one of them being FENASTRAS, and Attorney General Mauricio Colorado, and Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria.

Centeno, leader of the labor union to which FENASTRAS belongs, the National Union of Salvadoran Workers, (UNTS), announced that he will launch a campaign to ask the European Community and the U.S. Congress to suspend all political and economic aid to Cristiani's government.

"On 11 November we will present a document, signed by prominent democratic, political, and union leaders, asking the world to suspend all political and economic aid to Cristiani's government," Centeno warned.

Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, today said that the Catholic Church has agreed to join the commission. Meanwhile, the OAS and the UN are "studying" the government's invitation.

The UNTS, which claims a membership of over 200,000 workers, has accused Defense Minister General Humberto Larios and Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Ponce of attacking FENASTRAS with Cristiani's backing, an accusation the government has categorically denied.

Centeno said that the union will file suits at Salvadoran courts against five Armed Forces officers accused of capturing, torturing, raping, and murdering labor leaders and of murdering Archbishop Oscar Romero, a harsh critic of the government and Army who was murdered in March 1980 while he officiated a mass.

On the list are General Rafael Bustillo, aviation chief; Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar, former director of the National Police and current chief of intelligence; Colonel Heriberto Hernandez, former director of the Treasury Police; and Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

Also included on the list is Roberto d'Aubuisson currently a deputy considered to be the leader of the ultraright-wing sector of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), who is accused of being the mastermind of Romero's murder.

Legal Tutelage, a Catholic Church humanitarian organization, has accused the "death squads" of being the ones who perpetrated the 1 November attack on FENASTRAS.

According to Centeno the participation of UN and OAS delegates "will not guarantee" an explanation of the attack nor the trial and punishment of those responsible.

"The government has authorities capable of administering justice and by attempting to create an investigations commission it is admitting the ineffectiveness of the country's judicial system which has been incapable of investigating and solving the more than 70,000 crimes committed in the past decade," Centeno said.

Archbishop Repeats Charges Against Death Squads

PA0511221889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Nov (AFP)—Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, reiterated today that the death squads are responsible for the murder of 10 leaders of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS).

"There are many reasons for holding the death squads responsible for this mass murder. The death squads have returned to their old activities of sowing death as they did 10 years ago," Rivera y Damas said recalling the numerous political murders which occurred at the end of the 80's.

The death squads have been linked to Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, one of the main leaders of the government party, the Nationalist Republican Allliance (ARENA).

The Salvadoran archbishop urged the parties in conflict "not to worsen the difficult situation of the country," and he regretted the guerrillas' decision not to attend the dialogue with the Alfredo Cristiani government slated for 20 and 21 November in Caracas.

"We must remain calm in order to return to the path we had undertaken because dialogue and negotiations are the only solutions for our country's crisis," the prelate emphasized.

FENASTRAS Leaders To Be Brought to Trial

PA0511041389 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 49

[Text] The top Army command has announced that it will bring leaders of the Salvadoran Workers Union Federation (FENASTRAS) to trial for instigating the masses to violence and kidnapping and attacking soldiers in the FENASTRAS office.

At a news conference, Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda said that this leftist agitation responds to plans of the terrorist FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to "radicalize the masses" and create the conditions for an insurrection late this year.

Zepeda, accompanied by other top military commanders, added: "We are going to begin trials for these false leaders who are trying to unleash the masses, masses they claim to have prepared for higher levels of violence. This is a crime that must be punished."

Col Zepeda said that several soldiers were whipped inside the FENASTRAS installations in downtown San Salvador while the funeral wake for 10 union leaders, killed when a bomb half-destroyed the building, was under way.

"The union members accused the soldiers of infiltrating themselves among them, but the truth is that they were on leave," Zepeda stressed, reiterating that those guilty for these actions, "who must be FENASTRAS members," will be brought to trial.

The deputy minister said that the 30 October attack on the Armed Forces General Staff, the murder of a military officer's daughter, and the bombs planted in the homes of political leaders are actions carried out following the strategy the FMLN refers to as "the radicalization of the masses."

According to Zepeda, "this strategy is coming to its final stage because the FMLN had planned to create the conditions for an insurrection late this year."

"Time is running out for them, and their theory has failed. One of the most difficult things for the FMLN to accomplish has been to reach that degree of radicalization. Therefore, they are looking for an excuse to break the dialogue which was making them look bad as warmongers," he added.

Armed Forces Report on 2 Nov Actions

PA0311221089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1815 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The following is the most important news issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa]:

During a search operation carried out on 2 November at noon in the Santa Cristina farm, Ayutuxtepeque Municipality, northeast of the capital, Atlacatl Battalion troops

found two underground arsenals with arms, ammunition, materiel for explosives, and other war materiel. The terrorists had stored two AK-47 rifles, one M-60 machinegun, one M-79 grenade launcher, three LAWs [light antitank weapons], 250 cartridges, 4 grenades, 3 radios, 2 missiles for downing helicopters, and a lot of materiel to prepare explosive devices.

The Atlacatl Battalion command has reported that there have been several clashes in the area as a result of which extremist groups operating in (Intuxtepeco) have suffered several casualties. The Army has increased its patrol operations in the area to provide security to the citizens.

The Arce Battalion, meanwhile, has reported that four of its soldiers died and 8 more wounded when a soldier accidentally dropped an M-77 grenade and it exploded. This incident took place last night at 2000 when the soldiers were returning to their headquarters after carrying out military operations in northern Morazan Department.

On 2 November, in a clash near San Miguel, three soldiers were wounded as a result of an ambush. Many terrorists were wounded but were able to escape. The Atonal Battalion troops were wounded by claymore mine fragments when they were ambushed as they were traveling in a military vehicle near La Tiendita farm, in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department. This action took place yesterday at approximately 0920. The injured were taken to the military hospital in San Salvador.

On 2 November at noon, three terrorists were wounded during a clash with 3d Infantry Brigade units patrolling the La Puerta Canton, San Miguel. The authorities seized 700 cartridges for AK-47 and M-16 rifles, a claymore mine, and three knapsacks with food, clothes, and propaganda.

According to a report, two privately owned vehicles and [words indistinct] on the main street of the Las Asturias residential area, San Salvador, were damaged by a bomb thrown last night by unidentified persons at approximately at 1945. The vehicle with license plate No 30032 is owned by Mrs Irma Guadalupe Moran de Velar. The other vehicle, with license plate No 19043, is owned by Ana Cecilia Zelaya de Toca, who lives in the area of the attack. The authorities are investigating.

Commander Comments After Explosion at Residence

PA0411041389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0310 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Two grenades exploded this morning at the residence of Colonel Orlando Carranza, commander of the Bracamonte Battalion. The two explosions only caused damage, but Col Carranza has blamed the FMLN Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

[Rivas] "Col Carranza, (?who do you think) is responsible for the attack?
[Carranza] "The FMLN, the communist terrorists of the FMLN. No one else, no one else can be responsible. They are the culprits and I accuse them, because they are the culprits!"

Only two of Col Carranza's children, a 5-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, were in the residence at the time of the attack. They were looked after by a maid. Neighbors claim they saw no suspicious people, but they agree that they heard two big explosions. The explosions were caused by two devices: One destroyed the garage and caused considerable damage to a parked vehicle. The other one was thrown at the upper floor but it failed to cause damage in the main bedroom.
[Carranza] "These people do not want peace for the Salvadoran people.

[Rivas] "Your opinion about this action, Colonel?
[Carranza] "It is a provocation, a provocation... [repeats himself] but, like I said before, we have guidelines and we will follow them. I am talking about the government's guidelines.

[Rivas] "Do you mean that the Armed Forces will not be provoked by the actions, Colonel?
[Carranza] "No. We are professionals and we do not react to this type of provocation—even though they threaten our families. Only my family was here, not me. I am at the barracks, because we are currently participating in an operation and other activities, so only my family was attacked. This is the only way they carry out their attacks, because they never attack us. They also look for the weakest people to attack, meaning people who cannot retaliate. They are only capable of carrying out treacherous and cowardly attacks. As you can see, they have attacked two children; what can two children do? Nothing, but that is the state of things."

The residence of Colonel Orlando Carranza, commander of the Belloso Battalion, was the target of an attack in one of the most violent weeks ever in San Salvador. The house number is 33 and it is located on La Campina Street in La Campina neighborhood. No casualties were sustained but the damage caused adds up to several thousand colons.

We blame no one but we think that this type of action only endangers the lives of the civilian population, and it has begun to turn our city into a battlefield.

1st Brigade Commander Comments on Violence

PA0511123789 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, in analyzing recent acts of violence in San Salvador, has reported that groups out of the control of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation

Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front [FMLN-FDR] alliance could be responsible for the most recent acts of violence.

The military commander was careful in making his statement. He said that he has no evidence that those groups are responsible for the explosions in the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS] and COMADRES [Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People in El Salvador] offices, but recalled that similar attacks have been made in the past, the Army has been blamed, and later it has been discovered that FMLN terrorists had carried them out.

Elena Fuentes recalled that a few days ago there was an explosion on the National University campus and he went there and it was established in front of student leaders that the explosion was caused by a grenade that went off in the hands of a young leftist who was handling it. By then, however, statements had already been made accusing the military.

Elena Fuentes also referred to internal purges within communist groups, purges like the case of Melida Anaya Montes, alias Commander Maria; Salvador Cayetano Carpio, alias Marcial; and others.

He said: "It would not be strange to find that these actions have been the result of a purge or a diversionary tactic by the communists to attract political attention and gain the people's support, which everybody believes they are losing."

It was recalled, with all due respect, that the name of one of the victims of the FENASTRAS attack, Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, was mentioned in the investigations being carried out by international organizations over the embezzlement of aid from European countries that was to benefit the most needy people in our country, but that ended up in the hands of terrorist groups to be used for terrorist purposes.

Elena Fuentes stated: "Time and investigations will tell what really happened."

He said that the purpose of these attacks, especially the one on the Defense Ministry, for which the FMLN-FDR claimed credit, as well as the attacks on COMADRES and FENASTRAS, was to give the FMLN-FDR leadership justification to withdraw from the dialogue.

Elena Fuentes said that the terrorist Guadalupe Martinez said in Managua yesterday that the leftist leadership is considering not going to the dialogue meetings because of the attacks.

Honduras

Government Opens Border to 'Fleeing' Contras

PA0311164489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1608 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)— The Honduran Government opened its border today so that the Nicaraguan "contras" who are fleeing from a Sandinist military offensive can seek refuge here, Honduran Presidential Spokesman Marco Tulio Romero has announced.

Romero said that the anti-Sandinists who are in Honduras "have been annihilated and are not strong enough to face the Nicaraguan troops." Therefore, he added, the Honduran Army will not stop the "contras" who are retreating from Nicaragua.

On 1 November, Colonel Enrique Bermudez, the "contra" (anti-Sandinist armed resistance) military commander, told ACAN-EFE in Tegucigalpa that "our fighters have been ordered to avoid clashes, flee, and retreat to Honduras if necessary."

The hostilities between Sandinists and "contras" resumed after Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced this week the suspension of the cease-fire that had been in effect since March 1988. However, so far there have been no official reports from either side of heavy fighting or of the beginning of a large-scale offensive.

Romero said that although in August the Central American presidents signed an agreement in Tela (Honduras) to demobilize the "contras" before 5 December, "the Honduran Army will not expel them" from Honduran territory.

"We cannot expel them," Honduran President Jose Azcona's spokesman stressed.

Romero added that the Honduran Government hopes that President Ortega "will rectify and reinstate the cease-fire."

There are some 10,000 anti-Sandinist armed men in Honduras, who are accompanied by 40,000 civilians, most of them women, children, and youths. According to Bermudez, there are still approximately 4,000 "contras" in Nicaragua.

Government Declines Participation in UN Dialogue

PA0411005589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduras announced today that it will not participate in the dialogue to be held on 6 and 7 November at the United Nations between the Nicaraguan Government and contra leaders. Honduras expressed hopes for "the success of the meeting."

The Honduran Foreign Ministry, through a communique, said that Honduras views "with approval" the meeting between the Sandinists and contras in New York, initially promoted by the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).

Nicaragua also invited Honduras, but the Honduran Foreign Ministry replied that it has "never recognized the Nicaraguan Resistance's [RN] insurgent status and, therefore, the government does not consider the RN a valid interlocutor with whom it can negotiate."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that the CIAV "invited the Sandinists and the contras, but not Honduras."

He added that there has been an attempt to misinterpret a dialogue held 2 weeks ago in Washington between representatives of the contras and Honduran Government officials.

"It is one thing for us to have held a dialogue, and another for us to sit down to negotiate with the anti-Sandinists, which we have not done," the Honduran spokesman said.

Honduras feels that the meeting between Sandinists and contras should "make an effective contribution to national reconciliation in Nicaragua, through total amnesty, a cease-fire, and the demobilization and repatriation of the members of the armed opposition group," the official source said.

According to the Honduran Foreign Ministry, the dialogue also "implements the provisions of the joint plan for the demobilization, repatriation, or resettlement of the contras," which was signed by the five Central American presidents at the summit held in August in Tela, Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Government and the contras accepted the CIAV's invitation in order to facilitate the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels who are in Honduras.

Nicaragua believes that "the demobilization of the contras, in addition to not being voluntary, is also their duty under international law."

According to Managua, for Honduras to demobilize the contras is "an inevitable duty derived from the fact that Honduras is the state that has sovereignty over the territories in which the armed groups are located."

Honduras insists that the plan to demobilize the contras is an agreement signed by the five Central American presidents, "in which they delegated implementation to the CIAV."

Contras Not To Meet Sandinists at United Nations

PA0411003689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras today in Honduras announced that they will not attend a meeting with Nicaraguan Government representatives and the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) scheduled for 6 and 7 November at the United Nations.

However, a contra military source told ACAN-EFE that they are willing to meet with the Sandinists on 13 November, the date suggested in the beginning by the CIAV.

"We are not prepared to attend a meeting on 6 and 7 November; but our decision to talk continues to be firm," the anti-Sandininst military source added.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa said that: "we are surprised by this last-minute decision" by the contras.

Want To Continue 13 Nov

PA0411014989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras today unexpectedly announced in Tegucigalpa that they are not prepared to meet at the United Nations with representatives of the Nicaraguan Government and the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) on 6 and 7 November.

"We are not prepared for a 6 and 7 November meeting, but we could meet on 13 November. We are hereby reiterating our willingness to talk with the Nicaraguan Government," a spokesperson for the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] in Tegucigalpa told ACAN-EFE.

The rebel's decision, which surprised diplomats at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, was made today during a meeting of anti-Sandinist military commanders in Tegucigalpa. The meeting was chaired by Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

The contras also reported that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] attacks, with the support of helicopters, air-to-surface rockets, and heavy artillery, continued today in Chontales, Matagalpa, and Jinotega Departments.

The RN did not report on victims during this military offensive. According to the EPS, the military offensive has not begun, but the EPS is preparing military operations to fight the contras.

When Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced on 1 November that the cease-fire in effect since March 1988 had been suspended, he invited the Honduran Government and the contras to a meeting on 6 and 7

November to be held at the United Nations. At the meeting, the demobilization of the rebels would be discussed.

The contras and the Sandinists today announced that they accepted the invitation extended by the CIAV to meet on 6 and 7 November in New York.

However, Honduras today said that it would not attend the meeting with the contras and Nicaraguan Government representatives because the insurgents "are not a valid interlocutor with whom it can negotiate."

A spokesperson for the Honduran Foreign Ministry said that "the CIAV had not invited the Honduran Government to the meeting, only the contras and the Sandinists."

The Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, through its spokesperson, told ACAN-EFE: "We are surprised by this last-minute decision announced by the contras, and we are waiting to learn the reasons they have for not attending this meeting."

Propose Agenda for 13 Nov

PA0411034389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0243 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras in Honduras have proposed to the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) a three-point agenda for the meeting with Nicaraguan Government representatives at the United Nations on 13 November.

The agenda is included in a letter, made known today, sent by the contras to Francesco Vendrell, Spanish member of CIAV, and OAS representative Hugo De Cela of Peru, in which the contras informed them that they will not be able to attend the meeting with the Sandinists on 6 and 7 November.

The anti-Sandinist rebels proposed to Vendrell and De Cela that "the discussions in New York adhere to the following agenda:

A. The establishment of a total and verifiable cease-fire with verification and follow-up mechanisms;

B. The implementation of a total amnesty by the Sandinist government in fulfillment of the Esquipulas (Guatemala), Alajuela (Costa Rica), Costa del Sol (El Salvador), and Tela (Honduras) agreements, and;

C. Visits by members of the Nicaraguan Resistance under the auspices of the CIAV to confirm that irreversible measures have been adopted that will allow an eventual voluntary repatriation."

In their letter, the "contras" said that the cease-fire decreed [as received] by the Sandinists "worsens Nicaragua's internal situation and endangers the entire peace process from Esquipulas to Tela."

The anti-Sandinist rebels argued that they could not "make logistical arangements to arrive in New York on 6 November," because they only received the CIAV invitation to the meeting for 6 and 7 November today.

"We assure you that our negotiating team will be in New York and prepared for the discussions on the morning of 13 November," the letter states.

The "contras'" decision not to attend the meeting scheduled for next week by the CIAV was adopted today in Tegucigalpa at a meeting held by the anti-Sandinist military commanders, presided over by Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

According to other "contra" spokesmen, the warlike activities initiated this week against the rebel commandos in Nicaragua "will not improve conditions for a bilateral meeting."

The Nicaraguan "contras'" demobilization from Honduran territory was agreed upon by the five Central American presidents at the summit they held in August in Tela, at which they placed the CIAV in charge of overseeing the demobilization. The Nicaraguan rebels, according to the Tela agreements, must be demobilized prior to 5 December.

Spokesman on Groups' Future

PA0511235289 Panama City ACAN Spanish 2148 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The Nicaraguan "contras" based in Honduras are trying to delay their demobilization scheduled for 5 December and have said that their future is uncertain because they do not know if the United States will let them "die with empty stomachs."

"Contra" spokesman Bosco Matamoros told ACAN - EFE in Tegucigalpa today that the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) fighters "are not Supermen or Rambos who can survive despite the indifference of the United States, which has stopped sending us aid to continue this war."

"The main issue in Washington is not whether to continue sending aid to the RN, but whether we are going to die with full or empty stomachs, that is the uncertainty," Matamoros added.

The rebel spokesman stressed that "the Sandinists have turned the Nicaraguan people and the contras into hostages whom they want to lead to death." That is why on 1 November President Daniel Ortega suspended the cease-fire which was in effect since March 1988.

The rebels feel that with this measure the Sandinists are "trying to strangle the political process in order to stay in power."

Matamoros said that the United Nations should act now by creating mechanisms to guarantee a cease-fire and its verification.

He added that the "contras" will respect the agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Tela, Honduras last August.

However, the hard position assumed by the "contras" who refuse to demobilize contradicts the political will expressed by their military commanders who on 3 November unexpectedly decided not to attend a meeting with the Sandinists at the UN headquarters in New York.

The meeting between "contras" and Sandinists was promoted by the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV). However, the rebels replied that they could not attend the meeting until 13 November.

Matamoros confirmed today that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] continues its attacks against the RN commandos in Nicaraguan territory; however, he said that he does not know if there have been any casualties.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government said that although military operations are being prepared in order to fight the rebels, the offensive has not begun yet.

Within that framework, it would seem that the "contra" fighters, who according to their military leaders are retreating to Honduras, are fleeing from bullets that according to the Sandinists have not been fired yet.

The demobilization, repatriation, or relocation of the "contras" before 5 December was approved by the five Central American presidents in Tela. The presidents delegated this responsibility to the CIAV.

On 3 November, Nicaragua also proposed that the meeting with the "contras" and the Honduran Government at the United Nations be held on 9 and 10 November, to which Matamoros replied that the RN already announced that it will not be able to attend the meeting before 13 November.

Meanwhile, Honduras announced that it will not participate in a meeting between the "contras" and the Sandinists, as it does not regard the rebels as an interlocutor with whom it should negotiate its demobilization.

Nicaragua

Ortega Proposes New Date for Contra Meeting

PA0411010789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0043 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today proposed that the meeting to discuss the demobilization of the contras be held at the UN headquarters on 9 and 10 November, because it has not yet been possible to confirm whether the Honduran Government will attend.

Ortega had previously called the meeting for 6 and 7 November and had invited the Honduran Government, the armed anti-Sandinist opposition, and the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), created by the United Nations and the OAS, to participate.

The Honduran Government announced today that it will not participate in the dialogue between the Sandinists and the contras scheduled by Nicaragua for 6 and 7 November, although it expressed hopes for the success of the meeting.

For their part, contra sources indicated from Honduras that they will only attend the meeting if it is held on 13 November, the date initially proposed by the CIAV.

Honduran Participation 'Essential'

PA0411131089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1212 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] In light of the fact the Honduran Government is undecided about participating in a United Nations meeting to discuss the demobilization of the contras, Nicaragua has proposed a new date for that meeting. The Nicaraguan Government proposed that the meeting be held on 9 and 10 November, according to an announcement made on 3 November by President Daniel Ortega.

The president reported that he has sent a letter to his Honduran counterpart, Jose Azcona, to the UN and OAS secretaries general, and to Cardinal Obando y Bravo proposing the new date. In the note sent to Jose Azcona, Ortega says that he feels Honduras' participation in the meeting is necessary in complying with the demobilization of the counterrevolutionaries.

Speaking before approximately 400 artisans from various parts of the country, Ortega reiterated that Honduras must participate and contribute to agreements that will lead to the demobilization of the contras. Ortega said that the Nicaraguan delegation will be headed by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and that the invitation for Cardinal Obando y Bravo to be a witness is still standing.

The Nicaraguan president pointed out that the only topic on the meeting's agenda will be the demobilization of the contras. He added that regardless of the progress made by demobilization, Nicaragua would be willing to reconsider the cease-fire.

[Begin Ortega recording] The Honduran Government must contribute [words indistinct] in this meeting that we propose be held on 9 and 10 November at the United Nations. Cardinal Obando has been invited to attend this meeting, the Nicaraguan Government is ready to

attend this meeting, the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] would be ready to attend the meeting. Even the contras themselves would be willing to attend this meeting. So we think that Honduras' participation is essential and would contribute toward achieving an agreement on the contra demobilization because the mercenary forces are occupying Honduran territory.

With this action, we are showing once again that we are interested in peace for the Nicaraguan people. We want peace and life for the Nicaraguan people. We are being [word indistinct] by the decisions of the Yankee Senate. [end recording]

National Army Denies Attacking Honduran Forces

PA0511230489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2235 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 5 Nov (ACAN - EFE)— The Nicaraguan Army today denied that its troops, stationed on the northern border, attacked positions of the Honduran Armed Forces on 30 October, a military source reported today.

Statements attributed to Honduran Army spokesman Colonel Manuel Suarez Benavides had indicated that Sandinist troops attacked Honduran positions at the Las Manos border post, 250 km north of Managua.

Lieutenant Colonel Rosa Pasos, spokesperson of the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, said that Sandinist forces have not attacked Honduran soldiers on 30 October or any other occasion.

She added that on the contrary, Honduran troops have on repeated occasions attacked Sandinist posts located along the border, something that has been reported in protests filed to the Honduran Foreign Ministry by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

President Ortega Warns Contras To Accept Amnesty

PA0511200589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Rio Blanco, Nicaragua, 5 Nov (AFP)— Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has asked Sandinist troops to "act with maximum vigor to reduce the activity" of counterrevolutionary guerrillas.

In a meeting held on Saturday night, 4 November, with the townspeople of Rio Blanco, a town in the northern part of the country where the guerrillas have carried out intensive activities over the past years, Ortega warned the rebels that "either you accept the amnesty, or we will hit you hard."

Just 3 days after having suspended a 19-month-old military truce, the Nicaraguan president said that troops of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) have been deployed in embattled areas to hinder the activities of the contras.

In this regard, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Salvatierra, military chief of the northern Matagalpa-Jinotega area, told newsmen that the EPS "is not engaged in a large-scale offensive."

President Ortega seemed to be reinforcing this statement when he remarked that "it is still too early to assess the present military situation."

The Sandinist president's arrival in this town, located 180 kms north of the capital, was preceded by a large-scale EPS operation, with constant flyovers by Soviet-made MI-24 combat helicopters.

Ortega told newsmen that the rebels "are desperate because they already know that they have lost the elections," a clear allusion to the links that allegedly exist between the rebels and the National Opposition Union (UNO), which has nominated Violeta Chamorro, owner of the newspaper LA PRENSA, as presidential candidate.

Regarding the meeting that his government delegates are scheduled to attend at the UN headquarters next week, Ortega said that he has not yet received a reply from Honduran President Jose Azcona on his participation in the meeting.

The Sandinists believe that the presence of Honduras at the New York meeting is indispensable, because the contra guerrillas have camps in Honduras, and, therefore, the Honduran Government should play a primary role in the plan for the demobilization of the guerrillas. The demobilization is to be concluded in the 1st week of December.

The Sandinist government wants to discuss only the "technical and logistical" aspects of the demobilization at the United Nations.

However, Ortega said last night that if the contras present their demand for total amnesty, the government will also demand the release of "some 9,000" people who have been kidnapped by the guerrillas.

In any case, Ortega insisted that if the guerrillas do not put down their wepons, "then we will hit them very hard."

Government, Political Leaders Discuss Cease-Fire

Borge Comments on Events

PA0411154889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1221 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The United States may have veto power at the United Nations, but it has no power over the sovereign decisions of Nicaragua, Commander Tomas Borge said on 3 November before thousands of Managua residents who had gathered at the Commander Ana Maria Plaza.

Borge explained the government's reasons for suspending the unilateral cease-fire and he said the elections

will be held just as they are planned because Nicaragua has a powerful force, the people.

The leader said that in the search for peace the elections were moved forward, thousands of Somozist guardsmen were released, the return of contra leaders was allowed, and a dialogue is being promoted despite the war. Borge said that Nicaragua stopped acquiring military supplies, even though it has the right to defend itself as a sovereign country and even though the enemy continues to implement its hostile and aggressive policy.

Borge said that if the rightist groups—with the help of the United States—return to power, they would try to eliminate all Sandinists and their supporters or anyone who is simply suspicious. In this case, they would have to eliminate 80 percent of the population, Borge said.

Discusses Suspension

PA0411213289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Nov 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Commander Tomas Borge delivered a speech to approximately 8,000 activists, cadres, and local leaders at the Commander Ana Maria Plaza in Managua, stressing that the government decided to lift the cease-fire as another step "toward ending the war."

Borge, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], said: We Sandinists want to ratify in free elections that "we are the majority and the best. However, the U.S. Government, the pro-Yankee rightists, and the contras want to create difficulties in order not to have to face a defeat and to justify the resumption of war."

During the political meeting which was held under a persistent drizzle, Tomas said: "We are going to hold the elections. It is very difficult, almost impossible, for the enemy to prevent the elections from taking place, because we have powerful mechanisms, such as our people, to ensure that they are orderly."

Borge told the large crowd gathered at the political meeting that on 8 November tens of thousands of Nicaraguans will go to various parts of the country with members of the National Directorate to celebrate the FSLN's 28th anniversary and the 8th anniversary of Carlos Fonseca's death.

That same day thousands of Managua residents will gather to hear the words of candidate Ortega, who wearing his "tie"—his red and black scarf—will speak with his usual honesty and courage, which neither gossip nor arrogance will change, Borge stressed.

In his speech, Tomas Borge detailed the reasons behind the government's decision to temporarily suspend the unilateral cease-fire it had been patiently extending month after month in an unprecedented and unparalleled action. It was an extraordinary effort to contribute to peace and to expand the exemplary democracy that exists in Nicaragua.

After stressing that in practice the revolution's banner has been the quest for peace, Tomas noted the meetings held in Esquipulas, Sapoa, El Salvador, Managua, and now in New York, to which the Honduran Government and even the contras have been invited. "In order to achieve peace, we have made concessions and have acquired commitments which we have honored," Borge said. He recalled that thousands of Somozist guards who brutally shed the blood of innocent people have been released from jail and many accomplices and collaborators of the contras have been allowed to return to Nicaragua.

Borge, referring to persons whom he called such and such Bermudez and such and such Cesar, said that the first one has been mentioned as a possible defense minister and the second as interior minister. He added that both repeat the same lies, one in Honduras and the other in Managua, to justify the crimes of the counterrevolution.

The mention of those names as candidates to occupy the Defense and Interior Ministries provoked boos and protests from the more than 8,000 Nicaraguans who had gathered at the Ana Maria Plaza.

Jaime Wheelock Comments

PA0411193789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1705 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman, chief of military intelligence, by unidentified reporter—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Col Wheelock. We would like you to explain to us what the suspension of the cease-fire, which some countries have tried to question, means.

[Wheelock] One of the constitutional mandates with which the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] must comply is its responsibility before the law and the people for national defense. All the measures the Army may take to strengthen the national defense system and improve the conditions in our fatherland are valid.

The suspension of military actions against the contra forces was a measure promoted by the revolutionary government last year when the contra talks ended in June. The government's gesture was basically aimed at creating a climate of confidence.

As President Ortega has said, there is no legal document, such as the Tela or Costa del Sol agreements, the Costa Rica Declaration, or even the Esquipulas agreement itself which can force Nicaragua to lift or declare a cease-fire. No one can say that Nicaragua is contravening the agreements signed because the cease-fire was a unilateral measure that was aimed at creating a climate of confidence. If conditions change the Nicaraguan Government, which is free and sovereign, can take measures it deems appropriate.

The EPS must comply with the constitutional mandate of defending the fatherland when attacked from abroad. That is basically the answer to your question.

[Reporter] According to dispatches from Honduras, the contras have said that they are not prepared for the meeting with [word indistinct]. Furthermore, ACAN-EFE has said that the contras are trying to postpone their demobilization. There are also reports about a proposed agenda delivered by the contras in which they are asking the two members of the International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, to discuss the following subjects at the United Nations meeting: Establishment of total cease-fire to be confirmed through verification and follow-up mechanisms; granting of total amnesty by the Sandinist government in compliance with the agreements; and visits by members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, under the auspices of the CIAV, to confirm the implementation of irreversible measures that will permit their future voluntary repatriation. What are your comments on this contra proposal?

[Wheelock] The first thing I must say is that the contras, as a political-military organization, have disappeared. The contra directorate no longer exists. Bermudez is no longer director; neither is Calero; Cesar is currently in Nicaragua; Ferrey is also in Nicaragua, and Montalban is about to arrive. That contra directorate has been replaced in the political field by the UNO [National Opposition Union].

The main strategic political-military task of the contras in Nicaragua is conducting armed political propaganda in places where they... [changes thought] I am saying this based on testimonies received from prisoners during interrogation, on documents taken from them, and on other intelligence sources. The contras have been carrying out armed propaganda actions and sowing terror in areas where they believe they will lose the elections. Those actions include murders, rapes, and ambushes, particularly against the civilian population.

The political directorate has been replaced by another directorate in Nicaragua which is the UNO. It is clear that the contras in Nicaragua are conducting propaganda in favor of UNO candidates. That is why they are going to present their position during the talks.

However, the truth is this: The presidents must comply with the Tela agreements. Chapter 1, Point 5, Letter A reads: Conduct the necessary consultations and agreements with the Nicaraguan authorities, Central American governments, the Nicaraguan Resistance, and members of humanitarian organizations in order to expedite implementation of this plan. That is the only part where is says that meetings can be held. The implementation of the plan refers to the demobilization. In other words, technical and operational aspects will be discussed. No political plans or political conditions will be discussed.

If there is any need to discuss aspects concerning security measures, it will be with the CIAV or with the contras themselves. However, in my opinion, the points they have proposed are totally unfocused.

[Reporter] Col Wheelock, there are two topics here that we would like to ask you about: The Honduran Government's current stand and the role played by former Somozist Col Enrique Bermudez.

[Wheelock] In the contacts we have had with Enrique Bermudez, he no longer signs letters or documents, not even as military chief of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Forces]. Enrique Bermudez is now the U.S. ambassador to the contras. He is the chief negotiator for the U.S. with the contras.

This past week we uncovered a CIA plan that we had been following for several months. The plan is as follows: The CIA told the contras that in order to comply with the demobilization plan, only one-third of them needed to be demobilized. That one-third is what the CIAV saw in Yamales.

The contras infiltrated the other one-third deep into Olancho Department, in other words, in areas where the CIAV cannot easily detect them. The contras infiltrated the remaining one-third into Nicaragua. This one-third has infiltrated—and I insist on this—in order to wage an electoral campaign in favor of UNO. We have many prisoners and all sorts of information from various sources which confirms this contra plan directed and implemented by the CIA.

Honduras also plays a role in this plot. I have no doubt that President Azcona has the political willingness to demobilize the contras. However, political willingness is one thing and a reality is another. Honduras is a country that is militarily occupied by the United States. Honduras is not a sovereign country. Everyone knows that Honduras accepts the presence of the counterrevolutionary forces on its territory. Furthermore, the Honduran Army is covering up for the contras, and there is ample cooperation with the counterrevolutionary forces.

Therefore, some months ago, we denounced the Honduran Government for providing the contras with ammunition, antiaircraft rockets, and many other supplies that are now apparently lost. There is such cooperation between the Honduran Army and the contras that both are now patrolling the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

The commitment of the Honduran Army to the contras is total. The problem is that the declarations signed at Esquipulas, Tela, Costa del Sol, and Costa Rica very clearly specify that territories cannot be used to destabilize other countries. It turns out that these so-called poor refugees are being given weapons and supplies—the famous humanitarian assistance is actually military aid—in Honduran territory, and they have infiltrated into Nicaragua.

This violates not only the Central American agreements but also the UN and OAS Charters, as well as other

international treaties that Honduras has signed. This is a very serious thing, a very grave thing. Therefore, the Nicaraguan Government wants Honduras to attend the New York meeting because Honduras is responsible for the contras in its territory.

Evidently, the United States is mainly responsible for this, and for all the problems that have surfaced this week. The United States is now admitting that it knew the contras were infiltrating into Nicaragua. This violates all agreements signed so far.

Therefore, we want to denounce this CIA plan of trying to present a mock demobilization by including the elderly, the war wounded, and children, when actually it is only one-third of the contras being demobilized; another one-third is hiding deep in Olancho Department, and the remaining one-third has infiltrated into Nicaragua in order to carry out armed propaganda, including crime and terrorism in some regions of the country, and to participate in the UNO political campaign. That is, more or less, the situation we now face.

[Reporter] Lt Col Ricardo Wheelock, one last question to conclude: As soon as the Nicaraguan Government announced the decision to suspend the unilateral cease-fire, a Honduran spokesman, Marco Tulio Romero, spokesman for President Azcona, said, and I quote: Now the contras can come in because the Honduran Army is not going to fight them. We cannot oust them, end quote. He said they could return to Honduras because the poor contras were being persecuted by the Sandinist People's Army. What do you think of this statement by a high-ranking Honduran official?

[Wheelock] My previous statements indicate that the contras are in Honduras with the approval of the Honduran Government, the support of the Honduran Army, and the support of the U.S. Government. One only has to go to Yamales or any other camp to see that the contras do not need for any official to tell them the border is open to them or that they can come in. They go in and out with the approval of the Honduran Government.

This explains why the United States has refused to implement the mechanism of this Blue Helmet organization called ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] that would bring peace to Central America. The United States has also refused to accept all the elements that are directed toward the demobilization of the counterrevolutionary forces.

It has been clearly specified that these forces must be demobilized by December. That has been ordered by not only our president but by all the Central American presidents. This is an agreement that must be complied with whether the contras and the United States want it or not. This is a fact.

The United States wants to keep two-thirds of the counterrevolutionary forces armed so that after the elections are held military operations can be resumed when they deem it convenient. The United States has systematically refused to accept the demobilization of the contras. Logically, one cannot expect anything else from an official—as you mentioned earlier—of a government such as the Honduran Government that is submissive in military and economic aspects to the United States.

However, we have hopes that the Honduran Government will reconsider and comply with what President Azcona has promised to do, which is the demobilization of the contras. This would bring peace to Central America, and we could then think of a brighter future for all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Lt Col Ricardo Wheelock, chief of Nicaraguan military intelligence, for your statements to Radio Sandino.

Contras Said Taking Advantage

PA0411142289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1235 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Bonifacio Miranda, secretary general of the Revolutionary Workers Party, said on 3 November that the contras took advantage of the cease-fire to rest, rearm, and reinfiltrate their troops into the country to carry out political propaganda favoring UNO [National Opposition Union].

He added that his organization had warned about the contra actions and the danger they represent as an armed branch of the rightist alliance.

Miranda fully supported the decision suspending the unilateral cease-fire. However, he disagreed with discussing the demobilization of the contras because they have already been defeated by the people.

Contras Ambush Truck; EPS Begins Offensive

PA0311143989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The UNO [National Opposition Union] armed activists continue to bring more pain to the Nicaraguan people. On the night of 1 November, a truck of the Cristo Rey project was ambushed on the road from Rio Blanco - Bocana de Paiwas.

Jose Gonzalez Miranda, the driver, died as a result of that mercenary action. The truck, with the license plate 4961, is owned by the Cristo Rey Project, which does community work.

That same night, a group of contras attacked the Paiwas Bridge.

Meanwhile, the Sandinist Peoples Army began an offensive against the mercenary bands, particularly those operating in Las Pinuelas and La Cusuca in Chontales. Many helicopters are transporting fighters, reservists, and soldiers from one point to another so that the military operations can be more effective.

EPS Military Intelligence detected a mercenary force of approximately 500 men operating in that area; these men will face members of the Francisco Estrada, Simon Bolivar, Socrates Sandino, and Juan Gregorio Colindres Battalions for Unconventional Warfare.

Contras conduct operations in that area under the leadership of Caliman, Terron, Levy, Repollo, Musun, and Raton. During the past few days, they have been intimidating the peasants with propaganda activities favoring UNO.

Colonels Javier Carrion, Javier Pichardo, Roberto Calderon, and Cesar Delgadillo are directing the operations which will be extended to other regions in the country affected by contra actions.

Report Details Contra Infiltration Movement

PA0311230289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1950 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The true number of anti-Sandinist troops who have infiltrated Nicaraguan territory and are thus exposed to clashes with the national Army fluctuates between 1,000 and 1,500, a Honduran source linked to the contras has reported.

According to the report, the contra units left the Honduran departments of El Paraiso and Olancho on the Nicaraguan border between the end of August and October.

The number of contras mentioned in this report differs from the figures stated in propaganda reports issued by the contras and the U.S. State Department, which place the number of commandos infiltrating Nicaragua somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000.

The Honduran source gave assurances that the leading clandestine route used to infiltrate the troops was the Rio Bocay region, a wooded area where the contras maintained one of their most important bases up until 1987, when it was dismantled by the Sandinist Army.

The report indicates that the contras infiltrated Nicaragua bearing AK-47 machine guns, mortars, and RPG-7 grenade launchers, adding that they knew that they would not receive logistical support from their camps in Honduras.

According to the Nicaraguan Government, over the past 2 months the contras have executed a provocative action plan, which resulted in approximately 300 victims, including civilians and soldiers.

Ministry Denies Initiating Military Offensive

PA0311173489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1718 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist defense minister denied today that the Army has launched a "military offensive" in Nicaragua, but it confirmed the initiation of an "operation," which could lead to attacks in the next few days.

A Defense Ministry source told ACAN-EFE that 2 days after making the announcement on the suspension of the cease-fire, which the government had unilaterally maintained with the "contras" for the past 19 months, the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) has not yet begun fighting.

"We are preparing ourselves in case contras are detected so we can begin to launch an offensive," the military source said.

Further on Ministry Denial

PA0311183289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1728 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Despite rumors circulating in Managua to suggest that the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) have launched a military offensive, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today denied the beginning of military attacks against the rebel forces that entered the Nicaraguan territory over the past few days.

Two days after President Daniel Ortega announced the end of the unilateral truce it maintained with the contras for 19 months, a military source today confirmed to ACAN-EFE that there have been no clashes.

"The military offensive has not yet begun, although it is true that we have mounted an operation to detect the contras who have entered Nicaraguan territory over the past few days," the military source stressed.

He added that the Sandinist forces have gathered an unspecified number of troops in the country's central and northern regions "to face the contras once they are detected."

According to reports published in Managua today, Soviet-made helicopter gunships yesterday transported hundreds of Sandinist soldiers to Chontales in Nicaragua's central region where, according to military authorities, about 500 contras have been mobilized.

Tomorrow President Ortega will travel to Rio Blanco, in Nicaragua's northeastern region, where rebels killed 19 soldiers on 21 October and where an undetermined number of Sandinist soldiers are concentrated.

A diplomatic source consulted with by ACAN-EFE said it is doubtful the EPS will begin a "large-scale" military offensive prior to the talks to be held at the United Nations on 5-6 November between Managua, the "contras," the Honduran Government, and the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) which is comprised of representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Defense Ministry Reports Contra Actions

PA0311192289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Bulletin issued by the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Information Directorate in Managua on 3 November; read by Lieutenant Andres Palacios—live telephone relay]

[Text] Information Bulletin

I. Counterrevolutionaries attacks on to Sandinist Popular Army [ESP] troops:

1. A group of mercenaries attacked our troops in a place called La Providencia, in southwestern [words indistinct] in Chontales Department on 30 October. Our troops managed to free five civilians who had been kidnapped. The names of the civilians who had been kidnapped are: Petrona Jarquin, Candida Mendoza, Juan Mendoza Jarquin, Sebastian Jarquin Mendoza, and Gertrudis Mendoza Jarquin. We repeat the names of the comrades that were released: Petrona Jarquin, Candida Mendoza, Juan Mendoza Jarquin, Sebastian Jarquin Mendoza, and Gertrudis Mendoza Jarquin.

2. A group of mercenaries attacked our troops in a place called La Bocana, in northeastern Matiguas in Matagalpa Department on 31 October. Our troops annihilated three mercenaries and also confiscated one AKA rifle, one FAl rifle, and 2 M-79 grenade launchers during this action.

3. Our troops clashed with mercenary forces in Comarca Sabala in northeastern Santo Domingo in Chontales Department on 1 November. During this action one of our comrades was killed and one was wounded. The name of the comrade who was killed is Antonio Jarquin Obregon and the one wounded is Santos Ortega Hurtado.

II. Terrorist Actions Against Civilian Population and Economic Objectives:

1. A group of mercenaries kidnapped a peasant called Santiago Mendez in the place called Cerro Azul in northeastern Matiguas in the Matagalpa Department.

This bulletin has been issued in Managua on 3 November 1989.

Public and Foreign Information Directorate

Ministry of Defense

Chief Reports on Pursuit of 1,000 Contras

PA0411150589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1202 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops are pursuing over 1,000 contras who had infiltrated the 6th Region in October to conduct political propoganda favoring UNO [National Opposition Union], Col Manuel Salvatierra, military chief of the region, said on 3 October.

Salvatierra pointed out that the contra groups murdered 14 community leaders in the areas of Jinotega, (La Dalia), El Tuma, San Ramon and southern Jinotega Department.

The military chief said that his troops have already clashed with the contras in San Jose de Bocay and (Plan de Grama) where they were trying to prevent a verification commission from conducting its inspection.

Col Salvatierra said that during the clashes, which took place in Matiguas, [word indistinct), and El Guapotal, 12 casualties were inflicted on the contras. In addition, several rifles were confiscated as well as ammunition and documents.

Dignity Battalions Formed To Fight Contras

PA0411142589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1201 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Patriotic Military Service [SMP] fighters, reserve soldiers, and members of the self-defense groups in the peasant villages of Murra, Jalapa, Quilali, and El Jicaro, have formed the dignity battalions. These volunteer forces will fight counterrevolutionary groups headed by contra leaders with the following aliases: (Jaimai), (Caminai), Douglas, and Javier.

Violeta Chamorro To Meet Nine Heads of State

FL0311210189 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2023 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Nicaraguan opposition candidate for the Presidency, will soon meet with nine heads of state, including U.S. President George Bush. Chamorro will be in Houston the rest of this week for a general medical examination. She will then begin a tour of the United States and Europe.

Luis Sanchez, spokesman for the National Opposition Union (UNO), told a local radio station that the opposition candidate is scheduled to meet with President Bush next week, although the precise date has not yet been determined.

Chamorro will also meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, Philippine President Corazon Aquino, and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle. In Europe she will meet with UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Pope John Paul II, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and French President Francois Mitterrand.

The tour is of immense political significance and demonstrates the wide-spread acceptance and confidence that the international community has in Chamorro's candidacy, Sanchez said.

Nicaragua's presidential election is scheduled for 25 February 1990. Nicaragua head of state, Daniel Ortega, is also running for the Presidency.

Cordoba Devaluation, Fuel Price Hikes Reported

PA0511144089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1209 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Nicaragua has decreed a new devaluation. Beginning today the official exchange rate will be 26,400 cordobas per U.S. dollar. Up until yesterday, the exchange rate was 25,400 cordobas per U.S. dollar.

The measure will result in a price increase for the main raw materials, which are needed in the country and which are purchased in dollars, such as fuels. The transportation sector will also be affected as a result.

The fuel prices that will be in effect beginning today are as follows: a gallon of gasoline will cost 48,100 cordobas; a gallon of diesel will cost 23,500 cordobas; and a gallon of kerosene will cost 19,200 cordobas. A 10-lb liquid gas tank will cost 13,200 cordobas; a 25-lb liquid gas tank will cost 33,200 cordobas; and a 100-lb liquid gas tank will cost 149,500 cordobas.

Panama

Executive Branch Enacts Second Set of Laws

PA0411221589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Oct 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Text] The national government, aware that finding solutions to the problems of citizens in general and the neediest people in particular is one of its main responsibilities, fulfills this duty by taking steps to maintain the adequate levels of economic activity and national security—which have been affected by arbitrary actions of the U.S. Government during these last 2 years. Therefore, exercising its legislative powers, the executive branch has adopted a second set of laws to ensure an increase in construction of socially important low-cost housing, which is a priority; ensure an increase in the normal supply of medicine for the population by state health facilities; and protect the income of public servants.

1. The construction industry has demonstrated that it has the greatest potential to generate jobs because of the many related activities that revolve around it.

The U.S. aggression has had a direct impact on construction activities, seriously affecting thousands of workers who have lost their jobs and contractors who have contributed to the nation's development through this industry. The national government, conscious of its responsibility to watch over the well-being of all Panamanians, has adopted a number of decree-laws not only to provide incentives to the construction of low-cost housing but to generate a large number of jobs. Thus, the executive branch has enacted a decree-law increasing from 10,000 to 15,000 balboas the legal limit for priority socially important housing.

The incentives that had been established to promote the construction of housing in general also will be extended through another decree-law to apply to housing constructed between 30 June 1992 and 30 June 1994.

The exemption on the payment of real estate taxes provided for in Article 10 of Law 100 of 4 October 1973 has been extended an additional 5 years, and the benefits and incentives that were granted to the construction industry in Article 4 of Law 6 of 14 March 1983 has been extended until 31 December 1994.

2. The economic aggression the country has been enduring has had a direct impact on the normal supply of medicine required by the population, thereby affecting health standards. Therefore, the executive branch has exempted the Social Security Fund and other health institutions from the requirement of purchasing medicine, medical supplies, and surgical instruments through public bidding and has authorized these institutions to obtain them through informal bidding or through direct purchases from individuals or companies qualified to enter into contracts with the state—opposition to such purchases is not allowed based on contracts, concessions, or agreements, whatever their standing.

To this effect, the national government has also approved the decree-law that authorizes any legally empowered person to conduct business and import medicine, medicinal products, replacement parts for motor vehicles and agricultural machinery, and agrochemical products for wholesale or retail sale, subject to the currently existing legal dispositions.

The decree-law also indicates that a firm cannot bar others from importing the above-mentioned products because of agency, distribution, or representation contracts for those products. This law is intended to encourage free commercial competition, which will translate into lower sales prices for the public.

3. In the first group of decree-laws issued on 10 October 1989, the executive branch guaranteed the continuity of government employees' salaries, the prevention of mass dismissals, and the adoption of measures to increase the state administration's efficiency.

Scarcely 17 days after having proclaimed these important laws, the executive branch has issued another law to restore the implementation of the legal dispositions that protect state employees' salaries.

The measure is aimed at avoiding excessive deductions from government employees' salaries. These excessive deductions had been established through modifications

to the existing laws, without the necessary elements of judgment, when the law that regulates financial companies was adopted.

Along with this decree-law to protect government employees' salaries, the national government will exert the proper administrative controls to prevent garnishments and false pensions, which are used to avoid fulfilling commitments already agreed upon.

4. To counteract the aggression that the U.S. Government is perpetrating against the Panamanian Government and people, one aspect of that translates into coercive economic measures that have a negative effect on the country's development, the executive branch also issued a decree-law on 27 October that will ensure that our National Merchant Marine will maintain the leading position it currently holds.

The legislation in question was adopted after talking with the shipowners and other sectors involved in this activity.

27 October 1989
Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

Noriega Absent From Independence Day Ceremonies

PA0311181489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega was not present and Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez did not speak at the ceremony held today, to commemorate the 86th anniversary of Panama's independence from Colombia.

The main event was held at the Cathedral Park in the old section of Panama City. The highest-ranking military officer attending the ceremony was Colonel Alberto Purcell, deputy chief of general staff, and he did not speak either.

After the ceremony and during a social event held at the Presidential House (seat of government), President Rodriguez was questioned by newsmen and he did not reply to their queries.

The Presidency had previously issued a "message" from Rodriguez in which he again denounced the U.S. "plot" against Panama that "has brought strife in our society with lies and mirages" and is "supported by a giant machinery of state terrorism."

According to Rodriguez, Panama will not "be able to ensure national development and a participatory democracy that is all encompassing" until "the country's total liberation" is attained. The latter refers to the reversion of the canal and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the isthmus on 31 December 1999.

Panama City Mayor Victor Hanono also issued a message, that he did not read at the event, in which he, too, denounces "the intervention of foreign interests" and asserts that "the struggle has and will continue."

"We will not yield and we will not step backward in the struggle upheld by generations to attain our independence and sovereignty," added the mayor.

The event's speakers attacked the United States and stressed the "leadership" of Gen Noriega in the "struggle for Panama's independence."

Rodriguez Issues Independence Day Message

PA0311175789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p 20

[Message by Provisional President Francisco A. Rodriguez on the occasion of Panama's Independence Day—issued in Panama City on 3 November]

[Text] Today we celebrate the 86th anniversary of an independence that, because of the imperfections imposed by the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty, established the commitment of all our generations to the struggle of attaining its perfection.

The existence of a colonial foreign enclave in the midst of our national territory and the disregard for our dignity implied by such a situation has become the banner of our struggle ever since we attained our independence. This banner has always united political sectors and interest groups in difficult times, despite conflicting positions and the way these groups viewed government structures.

Both the date and circumstances in which we commemorate this independence day oblige us to recall with clarity and serenity that the difficulties we are presently experiencing and the reasons that have caused these difficulties are not new. This country has suffered this type of collapse, with the corresponding sequels of economic prostration and discouragement, in different periods, as a result of our extreme foreign dependency.

Overcoming this dependency has been the constant goal of Panamanian patriots throughout these 86 years. These patriots have been aware that without attaining the country's total liberation—the wish of consecutive generations—we will not be able to ensure national development and a participatory democracy that is all-encompassing and genuinely ours.

The date of our final liberation was marked on the calendar of the future when the Torrijos - Carter Treaties went into effect 10 years ago. On that date, we will become the owners of our destiny.

Supported by a giant machinery of state terrorism, the plot againt our country began and brought strife to our society with lies and mirages. The purpose of the plot was to wrench our liberation from us; the sacred legacy that will allow us to develop for the sake of the Panamanian people's welfare so they will not become slaves to foreign interests.

We have a peace that is not conceivable or attainable in many regions. We have also achieved a number of economic and social advances that show recuperation and the resulting general prosperity is a product of our joint efforts. A free and sovereign fatherland is not all we are seeking; it is merely the starting point of the new republic.

If we decide the road we are to follow and the way we are to walk it, there is no power that will stop us from becoming a nation where those who have little, will live better, and those who have much, will have it more securely.

Panama, 3 November 1989.

Noriega Claims Advance Notice of Coup Plans

PA0411033289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2308 GMT 3 Nov 89

[By Alfonso Zamora Valdes]

[Text] Panama City, 3 Nov (DPA)—Thirty-two days after the foiled military coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, it was learned that he not only had knowledge of the military uprising 2 months before it took place, but that he was never in the hands of the rebels. Gen Noriega said this himself during an impromptu dialogue with DPA.

Early on the morning of 3 October, Panama awoke under the threat of what was later learned to be an attempted coup d'etat against Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. Things happened quickly at the general headquarters where the office of the commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are located. The uprising was led by Moises Giroldi and Edgardo Sandoval at the general headquarters and Captain Javier Licona at the Cavalry garrison located in Panama Viejo, 10 km from Panama City.

According to Noriega, intelligence services advised him of the coup plans 2 months in advance. However, in his statements to DPA, Noriega did not specify what intelligence services. His former intelligence chief, Colonel Guillermo Wong, was involved in the plot and is currently under arrest along with other high-ranking officers.

According to Noriega, early on the morning of 3 October, he sent a captain to the general headquarters and Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan to the Cavalry garrison to talk to the officers who were planning the coup to ask them to refrain from carrying out their plans and to let them know he knew of their plan. Madrinan was seriously wounded at the Cavalry garrison.

According to the Panamanian soldier, the United States "manipulated" this situation. "They were involved before, during, and after the coup," Noriega added.

Noriega disclosed that during the military confrontation—which resulted in 10 deaths, 26 wounded, 37 arrests, and 5 who are still at large—he was never in the hands of the rebels. "I was at the foot of the cannon and under fire," Noriega added.

The incidents that took place a month ago go beyond a military rebellion. According to Noriega, the coup was manipulated by the United States because what the Americans want Panama's geographic location to control the Caribbean, from Colombia to the south and from Costa Rica north to Guatemala.

Noriega added: "They (the United States) thought that this people would rebel, that the people would put an end to anyone."

Commenting on the different versions of the incident as reported in the United States and by the international press, the head of the Panamanian military said: "They (the United States) put a well-prepared man with a script in front of the camera."

Regarding the statements made by Giroldi's widow, currently a refugee in the United States and not mentioned by name, Noriega said: "She knows very little, and she is being used by the Americans to create confusion within the FDP."

"We have the truth here in Panama and not in Miami, because the rival of the woman who is talking in the United States has told us everything," Noriega added.

The Panamanian press has reported that Margarita Achurra, currently under arrest, was the late Major Giroldi's mistress and that she, not Giroldi's wife, had strong influence on the decisions made by the coupists and what they did.

The military uprising—in which the Urraca Company, the "Doberman" riot police, groups of the Battalion 2000, and the Cavalry participated—was not successful because, according to Giroldi's widow, the chief of Battalion 2000, Major Francisco Olechea, who had discussed the coup several times with his wife, "changed sides at the last minute." Giroldi's widow described Olechea as "treacherous and cowardly."

Meanwhile, second in command Javier Licona said in the United States, where he has sought asylum with his wife and two daughters, that the time Maj Moises Giroldi spent trying to negotiate a provisional government with Noriega gave the Panamanian general enough time to get his loyal troops in place to crush the movement.

Gen Noriega concluded his remarks by quoting Jose Marti: "The United States does not like friends; it looks for servants."

Clandestine TV Broadcasts Coupist's Widow

PA0511185189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1755 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 5 Nov (DPA)—The broadcast of the Panama Defense Forces' [FDP] "Everything for the Fatherland" program, which is carried on national radio and television network every Sunday morning, was interrupted today by a clandestine broadcast of an interview with the widow of the officer who led the thwarted coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 3 October.

The clandestine signal was picked up for 15 minutes on channel 12. During the interview, Adela Giroldi, wife of the late Major Moises Giroldi, called on Panamanian officers to attempt another uprising against Gen Noriega.

"I believe that the day an officer or a soldier decides to put an end to Gen Noriega and those who follow him, the Panamanian Army will be rid of corruption," Giroldi's widow, currently in exile in the United States, said.

She also believes that Gen Noriega is "covering himself with the flag of a false nationalism to remain in power," and called on him to prove his nationalism "by leaving Panama."

Even though no reaction to the clandestine interference was made during the "Everything for the Fatherland" program, on previous occasions, spokespersons for the FDP have accused the U.S. Southern Command, stationed along the banks of the Panama Canal, of being responsible for these broadcasts.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2333 GMT on 5 November reports that the "25-minute message" was "announced to the Panamanian public over a clandestine broadcast on Radio FM-99."]

Opposition Suggests 'National Concerted' Accord

PA0311160989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Nov (ACAN - EFE)— Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC), has requested that "regime officials" consider the need to reach a "national concerted" agreement in the country.

In a statement issued on the 86th anniversary of Panama's independence from Colombia, Arias says he considers it necessary to reach a national concerted agreement in aspects such as "respect for human rights, respect for people's will, and respect for the legitimate civilian authority."

Regretting that for the 3d consecutive year the government has canceled the traditional Independence Day parades, Arias maintains that the existence of "many political prisoners and exiles, as well as the closing of various media keeps the hearts of Panamanians in distress."

"The fatherland is mourning rather than celebrating because of the dictatorial regime that prevails," Arias said. He added that "instead of promoting national unity based on the patriotism of all, the regime is fostering deepening divisions in an attempt to monopolize and manipulate nationalism."

Panama separated from Colombia on 3 November 1903, with U.S. support, after the Bogota government did not ratify an agreement with the United States for the construction of the canal.

Government Denounces U.S. Provocation' at UN

PA0411231589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2213 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] New York, 4 Nov (DPA)—The Panamanian delegation denounced at the United Nations today what it described as "acts of intimidation and provocation" by the U.S. Armed Forces.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, Panamanian delegate Oscar Ceville charged that on 30 October some 200 U.S. soldiers from Fort Sherman on Panama's Atlantic coast, supported by armored vehicles and helicopter gunships, occupied the town of Gamboa, close to Panama City, without any explanation.

The letter adds that the U.S. forces placed mortars and heavy machineguns in the town, took up positions in the park, pointed their weapons at the residents of both Panamanian and foreign nationalities, and surrounded the police post, thus endangering the lives and security of its residents.

Further on, the letter says that on 31 October, in another unusual action, another contingent of 200 Marines carrying combat equipment and traveling in armored vehicles advanced on the Pan-American Highway, which runs the full length of the country's territory. The forces entered the town of Arraijan, 18 km from Panama City, and advanced toward Chorrera, the country's third largest city [as received], 33 km from the capital, which is located in an area not designated as an area for the protection of the canal. This contingent was supported by light tanks and escorted by helicopters and fighter planes, which flew low over Chorrera and simulated attacks against the Panama Defense Forces garrisons.

This recent act of arrogance by the United States has once again endangered the lives and security of the Panamanian civilian population, who, armed only with their patriotic feelings against this irrational act of aggression, took to the streets and blocked the way of the foreign troops, sealing off the town's streets with public buses and private automobiles, the letter says.

The Panamanian delegate asks the United Nations to use its good offices to persuade the U.S. Government to abstain from carrying out this campaign to create tension and, complying with its obligations under the UN

Charter, to make a commitment to peacefully settle the differences affecting relations between the two countries.

Carles Backs Nicaragua, Scores Venezuela's Perez

PA0411180589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish in Spanish 1633 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 4 Nov (DPA)—Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Aberlardo Carles said today that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "had no other choice" but to suspend the unilateral cease-fire that had been in effect since March 1988.

"The Nicaraguan Government cannot continue peacefully resisting such outrageous attacks by the mercenaries who continue to attack the Sandinist People's Army," Carles added. Carles is in charge of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry during the absence of Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam.

The official said it was his "impression that the Sandinists had tolerated too much with their honest and noble gesture of a unilateral cease-fire, but unfortunately they cannot continue it."

Several days ago, the Nicaraguan president announced he would not extend the truce granted to the contras, claiming that they had increased their rebel activities.

Carles also commented on Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' idea of calling for a meeting of international organizations to discuss the Panamanian crisis. Carles said this is one "more example of the commitment he has with the United States to align Latin America and the rest of the world against Panama."

Carles said that in spite of Perez' efforts, the Panamanian struggle will be victorious and that the "U.S. effort, which the Venezuelan president defends, will fail because history does not move backwards."

The progovernment newspaper CRITICA published on 3 November a letter from President Perez to Willy Brandt, president of Socialist International, proposing a joint meeting in Caracas with Christian Democratic International and Liberal International to "promote the return of democracy to Panama."

[See Venezuela section of this DAILY REPORT issue for reported text of letter.]

Argentina

UK To Extend 'Claimed' Waters Around Falklands

PY0311193189 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Great Britain has announced that, as of 1 January 1990, it will expand its claimed territorial waters around the Malvinas Islands from 3 to 12 miles.

An Argentine Foreign Ministry source has said that this announcement was expected and that the delegation to the talks in Madrid last October was informed at that time.

The British decision will affect the Malvinas and other overseas territories, including the South Georgia, South Sandwich, Santa Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Turks, and Caicos Islands.

The Foreign Office [two preceding words in English] communique states that, in the case of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean, the drug-trafficking problem was considered when deciding to extend their territorial waters.

Menem Refuses To Pardon Firmenich, Videla

PY0511195089 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) President Carlos Menem will not pardon the former commanders of the Process nor Montoneros leader Mario Firmenich, whose 30-year sentence was recently ratified by a Federal Appeals Court, a top government aide told the HERALD yesterday.

This is an about-turn in the Chief Executive's policy of "pacification and national unity" under which he ordered the end of trials of military personnel accused of rebellion because of the Holy Week, Monte Caseros, and Villa Martelli uprisings, and an end to the prosecution of a group of high-ranking officers being tried for alleged human rights violations.

Originally Menem intended an across-the-board pardon, an attitude he changed—partly because of the internal resistance in his own party—to a two-stage measure

The government's outlook now is that the hypothetical freedom of Jorge Videla, Emilio Massera, Roberto Viola and Mario Firmenich would have a highly negative effect on society.

This information, contained in two surveys entrusted to a private firm by the State Intelligence Secretariat, has strengthened the stand of the President's inner circle of political advisers.

Even those who worked hardest and provided arguments to justify the first stage of the pardons have decidedly advised against their extension.

Apparently, Menem has not been influenced so much by the generalized rejection of leftwing political sectors—which he believes was foreseeable and expected—but, sources say, has been influenced by the determined opinion of his closest aides and a couple of personal experiences which in his opinion synthesize the feelings of society on the subject.

Unless there is a substantial change—a popular plebiscite in favour of the freedom of Videla and Firmenich appears unthinkable—there will be no more pardons for the time being.

In related news, Menem yesterday downplayed retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin being named to head an antiterrorist, antidrug rapid deployment force.

"It's just a rumour," Menem told reporters, "50 percent true and 50 percent false."

Lestelle Announces National Drug Control Plan

PY0311213589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1248 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Nov (TELAM)—Eugenio Lestelle, the secretary for drug abuse and drug trafficking control, today said, "There is at least a minimum level of drug trafficking everywhere in our country." He said, "The issue is being kept secret" and "secrecy helps drug traffickers."

Lestelle made these remarks to TELAM and Radio Nacional reporters in Cordoba, where he, Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz, Santa Fe Governor Victor Reviglio, and their respective cabinets launched the national drug control plan.

Lestelle said, "The policies of the plan will be established for each area and coordinated by the provinces to improve its efficiency."

He added, "We have divided the country into six regions," in which "Cordoba and Santa Fe represent the central region." He explained that the plan has "three major features."

First, the adoption of "systematic preventive measures," which consist of the "organization, planning, and coordination of measures all over the country," the secretary said.

Lestelle stressed "the significance of the training of teachers, so that they may give detailed classes at all levels of education."

The second feature of the plan is the "recuperation of addicts." He added, "We will introduce a concerted effort to cure addicts and reintroduce them into society through rehabilitation centers."

Lestelle then referred to the third "feature," which deals with "the control of illegal trafficking." He explained that "with the help of federal judges and the heads of provincial security organs we will design a joint strategy to tighten control."

He noted that "people have only recently begun to realize" the danger of drug addiction, "because the issue was being kept secret." He added that "drug traffickers need secrecy" and that "the peoples' unawareness helps them sell their merchandise."

He stressed that at every corner of the country there is at least a minimum level of drug trafficking, adding that "one of the most important recent achievements is that we have awakened the conscience of people in all sectors of the country, who are now talking and considering the issue."

He concluded by saying, "There is a growing spirit of solidarity which is spreading throughout society and which advocates participation. For our part, we will supply the formal structure through the national drug control plan, which begins today with the support of the president and vice president of the nation.

AIDS Cases Among Children Increase

PY0411003589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Health Secretary Matilde Menendez has announced that 14 cases of children with AIDS have been reported thus far in 1989. She added that many other children are AIDS carriers who may develop AIDS in the near future.

Matilde Menendez also emphasized the rapid spread of this scourge in this bracket of the population. She pointed out that between 1985 and 1988, only 4 cases were reported.

Bolivia

President Explains Absence at Costa Rican Summit

PY0411143789 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 3

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora did not travel to Costa Rica because the inter-American presidential meeting being held in that country is a rather formal event that has nothing to do with the resolution of Bolivia's development problems.

This information was reported by Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez, who said that the president did not accept the summit invitation because the meeting will yield no concrete results to benefit Bolivia.

Fernandez noted that Paz Zamora wants to get the most out of international diplomacy, as evidenced by his recent meetings with Latin American presidents and the U.S. President, and by the meetings that he will hold with other chiefs of state in the future, [passage omitted]

Minister Criticizes Resolution of U.S. Congress

PY0611005989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2249 GMT 5 Nov 89

La Paz, 5 Nov (EFE)—Bolivian Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco said today that a recent resolution of the U.S. Congress authorizing the White House to participate in the ousting of governments constitutes an "open violation" of the principle of self-determination.

"This resolution violates universally accepted principles for the peaceful coexistence of society and accepted principles among nations, such as the principle of the independence and sovereignty of nations, and the principle of free self-determination, which allows people to elect the government that they feel suits them best," Capobianco told the newspaper PRESENCIA. The newspaper published his remarks today.

According to the minister, the decision of the U.S. House of Representatives "is not healthy" for the democratic processes that have been launched in Latin America during this decade, or for the ones that are taking place in communist countries.

"Currently, greater value is given to democratic principles by all the governments in the world, especially communist ones, and from this point of view the decision of the U.S. Congress is contrary to the worldwide trend," Capobianco added.

Police Arrest Suspect in Missionary Killings

PY0411161789 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Oct 89 p 4

[Excerpt] Government sources yesterday confirmed the arrest of a man identified as Simon Mamani Callizaya for allegedly being involved in the murder of two Mormon missionaries from the United States. The two missionaries were killed by the "Zarate Willka" group in Lima last April.

Acting Interior Minister Raul Loayza confirmed the arrest and explained that Mamani was arrested by two policemen in the 16 de Julio area of El Alto District during a fair on 22 October.

According to the minister, Mamani's arrest was entirely legal and he was taken to the Criminal Unit and Judicial Police jail. Representatives from the Human Rights Association have confirmed the details of the arrest, as has Mamani.

Minister Loayza noted that the terrorist denied having taken part in the murder of the Mormon missionaries, who were killed in a house on Jose Acha Street in the 14 September neighborhood near the Central Cemetery. Mamani did confirm, however, that he knew the murdered missionaries and that he belonged to the "Zarate Willka" group. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Crash Kills Collor de Mello Campaign Workers

PY0411183089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] A Lear jet rented from the Bellair Air Taxi Company by members of presidential candidate Fernando Collor de Mello's electoral team crashed and exploded at Riberao das Neves, 30 km from Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State. The five passengers died instantly. [passage omitted]

Firefighters recovered four of the bodies early this morning, all of them burned beyond recognition. [passage omitted]

The Aeronautics Ministry released an official note in Brasilia stating that there must have been some problem with the pilot or with the plane. The note denied any possibility of sabotage.

The names of four of the five people on board have been released: Commander Cesar Augusto Costa e Silva, one of Bellair Air Taxi's directors; copilot Joao Bosco Monteiro de Barros, journalist; Alexandre Horta, who was covering the political campaign for Manchete Television; and Paulo Goulart, director of the Catholic Church newspaper OPINIAO. [passage omitted]

Gallup Poll Shows Candidate Silvio Santos Ahead

PY0311142989 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] Television announcer Silvio Santos' entry into the electoral race has drained votes from all of his opponents and, for the first time in the past 6 months, has toppled PRN [National Reconstruction Party] presidential candidate Fernando Collor de Mello from his leading position.

The latest nationwide Gallup poll indicates that if the elections were held today Silvio Santos would finish first with 29 percent of the votes, followed by Collor with 18.6 percent. They would be followed by Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with 10.6 percent, Leonel Brizola with 9.9 percent, Mario Maluf with 5.9 percent, Guilherme Afif Domingos with 4.2 percent, Ulysses Guimaraes with 2.9 percent, and Roberto Freire with 1.4 percent.

Collor de Mello Leads in DATAFOHLA Poll

PY0411015889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] DATAFOLHA [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO statistics agency] has divulged the results of its first survey after television personality Silvio Santos was nominated as the presidential candidate for the PMB [Brazilian Municipalist Party]. DATAFOLHA contacted 5,250 electors in 140 cities around the country from 1 to 3 November. Here are the results:

If the election were held today, Aureliano Chaves, Ronaldo Caiado, and Roberto Freire would each win 1 percent of the votes;

Ulysses Guimaraes and Afif Domingos would each draw 4 percent of the vote;

Paulo Maluf would secure 7 percent of the vote;

Mario Covas would come in fifth with 9 percent;

Leonel Brizola would come in fourth with 13 percent;

Silvio Santos and Luis Inacio da Silva would come in second with 14 percent each;

Fernando Collor de Mello would still come in first with 21 percent of the votes.

These are results from what is known as a survey in which the voter is given a circular card bearing the names of the candidates, and he chooses his favorite. In the other survey method, the voter is given a model of the official ballot. In the model-ballot survey, Silvio Santos drew only 3 percent of the votes, Fernando Collor de Mello obtained 25 percent, Luis Inacio da Silva gained 16 percent, and Leonel Brizola came in third place with 15 percent.

Sarney on Election Prospects, Economic Issues

PM0611103689 Madrid ABC in Spanish 16 Oct 89 pp 36-37

[Interview with President Sarney by Antonio Sanchez-Gijon in Brasilia; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Sanchez-Gijon] You have had the highest and also the lowest popularity ratings among Brazilian presidents. Do you believe that the Brazilian mass media have played the institutional role which could be expected of them, and were they right to help create such disparate states of opinion about your term of office?

[Sarney] I would rather talk about the news media in democratic societies in general. They have acquired a power that could become stronger than the state itself. If that could happen in developed countries, just imagine what couold happen in countries with a large illiterate population? As far as I am concerned, I could say that I have frequently lacked the support of the press, but I could also add that I have never tried to silence a single journalist.

[Sanchez-Gijon] Over the past few weeks, there has been considerable debate in Brazil about the possibility of hyperinflation taking off, as it has in Argentina. What measures does your government intend to adopt in order to prevent that phenomenon from occurring before the end of your term?

[Sarney] Hyperinflation occurs only in a situation in which the economy is out of control. Brazil is in no danger of running out of control. Our macroeconomic

figures bear out what I say; this is true with respect to the monetary base, the money supply, and fiscal policy. Second, there can be no hyperinflation without its being preceded by an exchange rate crisis. Brazil has export figures which are among the best in the world. Our current reserves are the highest in our history, and our country has increased its agricultural output by 40 percent in 4 years; we now produce 70 million tons of grain. During the years of my term, the country has grown at an average rate of 4.3 percent. This is not a country in recession. It is true that we have a very high inflation rate, but it should not be forgotten that I began my Presidency with an inflation rate of 360 percent.

The state's financial situation is a very different matter. Until a few years ago, the state held 57 percent of public revenue; today we have been reduced to 35 percent. The state's transfers to other public bodies will increase over the next few years. The state's gross revenue represents 9.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP); we pay the interest on the foreign debt with another 1. percent [figure as published]. The state has been reduced to 4.6 percent of GDP, and 3.9 percent of GDP goes for personnel costs, so it has only 0.7 percent of GDP left to construct roads and to produce power, infrastructures, state companies, and so forth. This is a real crisis of the Brazilian state.

Historic Election

[Sanchez-Gijon] The Brazilian people go to the polls 15 November to elect your successor in the Presidency. Most Brazilians have never taken part in electing the president. How do you view your role in this important step in the democratic transmission? [sentence as published]

[Sarney] Only two presidents in Brazil's history refrained from taking part in their successors' election—the two at the beginning of the Republic. Over the past few years, democracy has become consolidated thanks to the strengthening of the institutions and the broad mass participation in those institutions. For that reason, I took the view that I should not take part in the election. We are having an electoral process as free as anywhere else in the world. I confine myself to acting like a magistrate; that is why there has not been the slightest accusation that the government has interfered in the electoral process.

[Sanchez-Gijon] Do you believe that the election campaign has been of the desired standard?

[Sarney] We have emerged from a lengthy period in which the conditions for exploiting the full potential of an electoral debate did not exist. In addition, Brazil does not have a great tradition of national parties; our tradition is one of regional parties. This causes elections to sometimes take place more on the basis of personalities than on the basis of parties, and this in turn causes the campaigns to take the form of a superficial debate on the personalities rather than on the underlying issues.

[Sanchez-Gijon] Do you not believe that this criticism could also be made of Brazil—one of the most difficult markets to penetrate?

[Sarney] Brazil has indeed criticized the developed economies' protectionism, which, in our opinion, is an obstacle to faster growth of world trade. These practices, however, should be distinguished from the measures adopted by the developing countries. In the latter instance, these measures are aimed at creating minimum conditions that enable nascent industrial sectors to achieve better levels of performance, whereas the industrialized countries' protectionism is aimed at protecting obsolete industries and safeguarding the advanced technology sectors.

It must be explained that Brazil is implementing a new industrial policy, one of whose most noteworthy methods is the gradual and systematic reduction of the tariff barriers previously applied to many industrial sectors. Import tariffs, which ranged between zero and 105 percent, fell in July 1988 to between zero and 85 percent. We intend to reduce these percentages even more.

Free Trade Area

[Sanchez-Gijon] On the occasion of the treaty with Argentina of November 1988, you and the Argentine president launched the idea of a free trade area and a common market between Argentina and Brazil in the year 2000. Would you revise that time frame in view of the two countries' economic crises?

[Sarney] I do not believe that we should now revise the time frames laid down in the integration treaty concluded 29 November 1988. The treaty, which has now been approved by the two countries' national congresses, envisages the removal of all tariff and nontariff barriers within a maximum period of 10 years. All articles traded between the two countries benefit from tariff reductions. A common market in capital goods and the food industry has already been established. We have systems of industrial, financial, and scientific and technological—apart from nuclear—cooperation. From the outset, Brazil and Argentina were aware that integration is a long-term effort, to be carried out gradually, in a balanced way, and with fair mutual advantages. To cite one example, how can you be hasty in carrying out activities such as the joint project for an aircraft such as the CBA-123? Moreover, both countries must be given time to adjust to the integration process. We have now succeeded in involving the business sector and making them more aware. The economic crisis is an obstacle, of course, but we have been able to progress despite it. Integration depends essentially on the two sides' political will, creativity, and confidence. [passage omitted]

EMBRAER Contract With France Detailed

PY0311130289 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Oct 89 p A-6

[Text] Vale do Paraiba Agency—In November the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER) will sign a

contract for the sale of EMB-312 Tucano military training planes to the French Air Force. The deal includes the sale of 50 units and an option for 35 more. The contract, which was negotiated over the past 2 years, will be the third-largest sale of Tucanos—the most successful military plane the firm has built—to foreign countries.

EMBRAER's first large sale was made to the Egyptian Defense Ministry after competitive bidding. Egypt purchased 120 planes with an option to purchase another 60. The second big deal was with the Royal Air Force. In 1985 EMBRAER granted England a license to manufacture the EMB-312 through Short Brothers, a Belfast-based company, with the right to build 131 planes for themselves. The EMB-312 is valued at $1.9 million (9.4 million new cruzados at the official exchange rate) in the international market.

EMBRAER is headquartered in Sao Jose Dos Campos (85 km northeast of Sao Paulo). The company has already sold 622 EMB-312's, of which 497 are firm sales and 125 are options. The plane is being used by the air forces of 10 different countries. The EMB-312's sold to France will replace old Fouga-Magisters, which they use to train pilots. A delegation from the French firm Matra visited EMBRAER yesterday to discuss the terms of a joint venture, which is the essential condition for signing the contract.

The engine for the French Tucanos has already been discussed. The original is equipped with a Pratt & Whitney engine, but the planes manufactured by Short Brothers for the Royal Air Force are equipped with the more powerful Garret engine. The French Air Force will have to decide if it wants a more powerful engine for its Tucanos.

Chile

Joint Declaration Signed With El Salvador

PY0311205589 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The governments of Chile and El Salvador have signed a joint declaration in which they recognize that market economy principles are the main force of development.

The declaration was signed by Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz and by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas, who concluded an official visit to Chile today. The joint communique reasserts both countries' commitment to the growing liberation of international trade and rejects the obstacles that hinder exchange. The document also expresses the concern of Chile and El Salvador over terrorist acitivity in Latin America and foreign support to subversive groups. The two countries agree that both activities hinder democracy and economic development.

After signing the joint declaration, the Salvadoran foreign minister gave a news conference in which he regretted the fact that the guerrillas abandoned the talks sponsored by President Cristiani. Pacas said this attitude demonstrates that the extremists do not want peace in El Salvador.

Polish Trade Delegation at Chamber of Commerce

PY0411022689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A group of Polish businessmen met with members of the Chilean Chamber of Commerce, headed by its President Daniel Platovskiy, at the chamber's headquarters in Santiago. The delegation members expressed their desire to step up trade between the two countries.

The Polish delegation has some 10 representatives from various sectors. Its members are the first Polish participants in FISA-89 [Santiago Industrial Fair]. The delegation is displaying a wide range of exportable goods.

At the end of the meeting, Platovskiy said that as a result of increasing bilateral commercial relations, trade with Poland should easily surpass $5 million this year and $10 million next year.

Last July, trade with Poland amounted to $3,531,000.

Carabinero Station in Rahue Alto District Bombed

PY0111173389 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Oct 89 p C-11

[By Eugenio Calcagno Freire]

[Excerpt] Osorno—A precinct police station at the intersection of Sargento Aldea and Santa Isabel Streets in the Rahue Alto district of Osorno was bombed early yesterday morning. The Carabineros prefecture has reported that the blast shattered the windows of the recently built precinct building, destroyed walls and doors, and knocked down some restroom fittings.

A communique released by the Carabineros states that neither the type of explosive nor the perpetrators of the attack have been identified. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Signing of Government, M-19 Agreement Postponed

PA0611134889 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—The national government has announced that the signing of the Demobilization Act with the subversive 19 April Movement [M-19], which was scheduled to take place today in the village of La Paz, Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, has been postponed until 13 November.

The Presidential Advisory Office for Peace decided to suspend the event in order to establish contact this week with the international organization to which the M-19 will deliver its weapons, and to discuss the final details of the rebel demobilization process.

This week the government will create a technical reintegration committee to facilitate the return of M-19 members to civilian and political life.

Some days ago, the rebels announced that they would deliver their weapons to the Nobel Foundation, headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden. This foundation awards Nobel Prizes to persons who are most distinguished in the fields of art and science.

Judges, Judicial Workers Begin Indefinite Strike

PA0311195389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1715 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 3 Nov (EFE)— The 5,000 Colombian judges and 20,000 judicial employees totally stopped their activities for an indefinite period today, claiming that they are defenseless against the drug traffickers' terrorism, which hit Bogota again today with a car bomb that caused four deaths.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Justice issued a statement which said, "Despite the government's reiterated promises to help and protect members of the Judicial Branch, no measures have been taken."

A car bomb exploded early today at a bridge in Bogota's southeastern industrial area, killing four street vendors and seriously damaging industries, houses, restaurants, and the street vendors' booths.

On 1 November, Justice Mariela Espinosa Arango, of Medellin's Higher Penal Court (Appeals Court) was killed in Medellin.

Several judges and justices have been killed during the past 4 months, among them Medellin's First District Judge Maria Elena Diaz Perez, Justice Carlos Valencia, of Bogota's Higher Court, and Justice Hector Jimenez Rodriguez, of Medellin's Higher Court.

According to National Police Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla "the police are protecting judicial workers who ask for protection."

He added that "some judges prefer not to have personal escorts, but only request protection at their homes, as was the case of a judge who was recently killed."

Gomez Padilla added that "some situations are beyond police control despite all the efforts."

Meanwhile, Col Julio Castano Rozo, commander of the police department in Antioquia, said, "We are struggling against very well-trained, hired assassins, while our men are working under precarious conditions."

Justice Mariela Espinosa Arango was killed by at least 10 gunmen, when a station wagon and two other cars intercepted her car and sprayed her with machine-gun fire, killing her instantly.

Terrorists and drug traffickers began their attacks against Colombian judges in 1984 when Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla was killed. Following Minister Lara Bonilla's murder, dozens of judges, justices, and judicial workers have been killed by gunmen working for drug traffickers.

On many occasions "the Extraditables," the Medellin Cartel's armed branch, has claimed responsibility for those homicides, claiming that it is part of a "war against the extradition" of Colombian drug traffickers to the United States.

U.S. Aid Sought

PA0611141489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—Justice Minister Roberto Salazar will try to secure U.S. aid for protecting Colombian justices. Yesterday, the minister unexpectedly traveled to New York, where he will meet with U.S. officials and try to speed up the delivery of aid that the United States had promised to former Colombian Justice Minister Monica de Greiff.

Minister Salazar will return home this week to seek a definitive solution to the strike declared by Justice Branch employees as a result of the murder of a Medellin judge and of two Justice Ministry employees in Valle del Cauca.

Extradition of Alleged Drug Trafficker Reported

PA0511013089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0104 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Guillermo Bueno Delgado was sent to the United States today. His extradition was requested because he is accused of conspiracy and drug trafficking in California, Illinois, and Florida. Bueno Delgado was arrested on 14 September; he is the sixth Colombian to be extradited this year. At this moment, Bueno Delgado is under strict security measures in Tallahassee, Florida. [passage omitted]

Medellin Cartel Urban Group Leaders Arrested

PA0311171089 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Oct 89 p 7-A

[Text] The National Police F-2 [Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics] has arrested the chief and three important members of the "Medellin Cartel Urban Action Group, Rodriguez Gacha Line," who had been operating in Bogota.

Former National Police Captain Jorge Noel Barreto Rodriguez—the chief of a network working for Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias "the Mexican"—was among those arrested.

The official report states that the four men arrested were conducting specific security operations for members of the "Medellin Cartel," such as debt collection, and

hiring and paying assassins and terrorists to implement actions. They also handled the cartel's national finances in this field.

The four men were identified by the National Police F-2 as Jorge Noel Barreto Rodriguez, a former officer who was dismissed from the National Police in 1980 for misconduct; Rafael Antonio Hernandez, Cesar Augusto Mateus Bolanos, and Nibardo Munoz Triana.

Former Capt Barreto Rodriguez became associated with the criminals after he was dismissed for misconduct. It was reported that Barreto Rodriguez assumed great importance in the criminal organization because of his knowledge of special operations, intelligence, and counterintelligence. Moreover, Barreto Rodriguez became a "legend" within the cartel organization and to those who had the responsibility of investigating his activities and apprehending him.

The F-2 report adds that "Barreto Rodriguez' actions were being coordinated with the chief of the criminal organization through sophisticated communications equipment, enabling him to receive orders that could then be carried out throughout the country—especially in Bogota with the men he directed."

The police also reported that Barreto Rodriguez simultaneously transmitted his orders using communications equipment and electronic beepers that were given to each of his men.

From the four men authorities seized over 8 million pesos in cash, which was earmarked for future actions; an accounting book in which they registered payment balances for a group of hired assassins; a document referring to a payroll that reportedly belongs to a group of criminals; checkbooks, and payment and deposit slips which shed light on different transactions involving large amounts of money; as well as weapons of various calibers and ammunition.

The police F-2 also reported that it seized a schedule with notes including the names of individuals known as paid assassins who work for the narcotics traffickers, and telephone numbers and secret codes regarding several illegal drug-related activities.

Poll Indicates Majority Favor M-19 Pardon

PA0311200789 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Oct 89 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Text] A majority of the Colombian people favor a pardon for the M-19 guerrilla forces and believe the measure would benefit the country, but they think that political assassinations should not be pardoned.

The results were revealed in a recent poll, conducted on 21-22 October by the National Consultative Center and Radio Caracol, among people of different social classes in Bogota, Cali, Medellin, and Barranquilla.

The poll was conducted among 615 persons of both sexes ranging from 18 to 60 years of age.

The poll also analyzed other details, such as the Colombians' position concerning drug trafficking. On this point, it was revealed that most people believe a dialogue should be held before a "strong hand" position is taken to counter trafficking.

Nevertheless, 55.9 percent of the people do not favor a pardon for the drug traffickers.

The opinion on the dialogue is shared by the upper, middle, and lower classes—particularly in Medellin (77.1 percent) and Cali (64.9 percent)—which seems to reflect the drug cartels' influence in these cities. In Bogota and Barranquilla, however, the percentage of people who favor a dialogue decreases considerably (46.4 percent and 58.1 percent, respectively).

Generally speaking, only 30.7 percent of the people favor using strong measures while 61.2 percent favor a dialogue. Conservative Party and Patriotic Union [UP] members polled alike, with 64 percent favoring a dialogue, while 57.7 percent of the Liberal Party members concurred.

When asked if they favor or oppose the government's measure to pardon the M-19 guerrilla members, 71 percent of the upper-class people said yes while only 13.8 percent said no.

The percentages in the middle class were 67 percent in favor and 14 percent against; and in the lower class 62.9 percent said yes as opposed to 12.4 percent who said no. Also, 15.8 percent of the people said they were uncertain and 4.1 percent refused to answer.

The same question, classified by cities, revealed that 81.4 percent of the population in Medellin, 56 percent of the population in Bogota, 62 percent of the population in Cali, and 71.1 percent of the population in Barranquilla supports a pardon.

Separated by party, the results were as follows: 83.3 percent of the Patriotic Union members, 71.1 of the Liberal Party members, 65.8 percent of the Conservative Party members, and 72.5 percent of other parties advocate a dialogue.

The following question, concerning the benefits that may be derived from a pardon, revealed the following figures:

Sixty-eight percent of the Colombians who participated in the poll said that they believe a pardon would be beneficial, while only 13.7 percent said they are against it. However, most said that political murders and kidnappings should not be pardoned (75 percent in the various social groups) while 13.4 percent said they were in favor of such a measure.

This could imply that some of the people interviewed are not aware of the scope of the pardon, which includes some political murders and kidnappings that can be

regarded as crimes related to rebellion, protests, and sedition. However, those interviewed were more open-minded regarding a general pardon for the guerrillas. Some 72.3 percent believes that it should be granted, but with conditions. An average of 70 percent in the three social classes expressed that opinion, while only 13.2 percent said they are against it.

A breakdown by parties showed the following results: Among the Liberal Party members, 74.6 percent said they would favor granting a pardon to the guerrillas with conditions, compared to 74.5 percent of Conservative Party members, 63.6 percent of the UP, and 73.3 percent of independents.

Two questions in the survey markedly reflected social consensus. When asked if they thought that the M-19 has real intentions of accepting the amnesty, 56.5 percent said yes.

Another question was whether M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro should be pardoned, to which an average of 64 percent in the three social classes replied positively, while 17 percent said no.

The most skeptical among the political parties were the conservatives, with 50 percent of them believing that the M-19 will accept the amnesty, compared to 61.8 percent among the liberals and 72.7 percent in the UP.

As for pardoning Pizarro, 59.2 percent of the conservatives agreed with the measure, while the percentage reached 63.6 percent among liberals and 99.9 percent among UP members.

It is significant that while the majority of people support a pardon for the M-19, most of them are opposed to pardoning the Army of National Liberation [ELN] (61.2 percent), the Popular Liberation Army (57.8 percent), and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] (51 percent).

Minister Announces 'Democracy Plan' for Security

PA0311224589 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Oct 89 p 8-A

[Text] The national government has launched a "Democracy Plan" to protect presidential candidates' lives, to subdue paramilitary groups, and to prevent acts of violence throughout the country.

Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo revealed that this plan increases the number of personnel on active duty by 18,483.

He explained that these personnel are part of the second, third, and fifth 1988 contingents, whose tour of duty was extended before being transferred to the reserve forces.

The defense minister said that the maintenance of this force costs 2.733 billion pesos, an amount approved by the Finance Ministry.

Gen Botero Restrepo said that high-ranking military commanders will visit all zones affected by violence to investigate alleged abuses by national Army members—whom the Patriotic Union [UP] charges with participating in or advocating the persecution of people who are members of this legally registered party—and to order the appropriate investigations.

The "Democracy Plan" also includes the following strategy to guarantee order throughout the nation before and after the elections:

The Army, police, and state security organizations will carry out control, surveillance, and security operations in coordination with the National Civilian Registry Office.

The Armed Forces will be absolutely impartial and will provide assistance to solve any complaint presented by the political parties.

Law and order will be strictly enforced in the areas heavily threatened by violence.

The struggle against organized crime will continue and the borders will be strictly controlled, National Defense Minister Botero added.

ELN Guerrillas Attack Revenue Control Patrol

PA0611030389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0117 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Alleged members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] have killed Eduardo Zetina, commander of the Revenue Control Patrol of Portachuelo, Santander Department, and three guards—Pedro Castro, Hugo Vecino, and Miguel Fonseca. The guerrillas stole the guards' regulation weapons and 350,000 pesos in cash from a toll gate on the road to Huila.

The attack took place at approximately 2330 on 4 November in Portachuelo, Rionegro Municipality. Apparently, 8 to 10 armed men arrived at the site and killed the three guards and the commander in less than 10 minutes. The men were on guard duty and their shift would have ended at 0100 on 5 November. Four more guards, who were off duty and sleeping at the time, woke up and escaped. After killing the four men on duty, the attackers opened fire on the other guards' room and damaged the walls. The attackers took the guards' regulation weapons, the registration book, and the rubber seals.

The people of Portachuelo reported that this morning they noticed ELN posters in the area. The army is guarding the area as of early this morning. This is the second attack against Revenue Control Patrol posts this year. On 3 May earlier this year, one guard and one commander were killed in El Playon area.

After a funeral mass held at the Santander Revenue Control Post, the bodies of the four victims were turned over to their relatives. They will be buried on the afternoon of 6 November.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Calls Democratization 'Irreversible'

PY0411112089 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 11

[Excerpts] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday urged all sectors of Paraguayan society to fight for a real reconciliation and thereby show that Paraguayan democratization is irreversible. He asked the people to trust his administration and to give him time to fulfill his promises. Referring directly to Stroessner, Rodriguez said: "How can I be so unlucky? I am not as lucky as the other one who stayed in office for more than 30 years and was never bothered by land occupation problems. In these 9 months, the people have created many problems for me." Regarding the land occupation problem he said: "We will see to it that the people respect private property."

The president said attention will always be paid to the peasants' demands but explained that his administration will always act in accordance with the laws and will always respect the rights of others. Rodriguez made those comments during a speech at the ceremony starting the Rural Development Project at the San Blas Colony in Caaguazu Department. "I want to ask you to help us all live happily and in harmony. Let us all try to love each other. Let us not fill our hearts with rancor, hatred, or selfishness. Rather, let us fill our hearts with solidarity. Let us stretch a helping hand to the needy ones," the president said.

"I recommend that you all live happily and in harmony with your fellow countrymen. Above all, I recommend that you respect each other."

Referring to the peasants' demands and complaints, Rodriguez said: "I have been in office for less than 9 months, and I can already tell my fellow countrymen that we are beginning to settle landless people in various parts of the Republic. We cannot, however, solve all the problems in single day." [passage omitted]

Rodriguez then visited Arroyito, in the region of Repatriacion, where he dedicated a school and, symbolically, four other similar establishments. During his speech, President Rodriguez urged the people to forget the past, the disagreements, and the rancor. "We cannot live in the past; let us look toward the future so that we can develop our country's grandeur and that of our children," he said. After sharing a luncheon with local officials, teachers, and school children, Rodriguez returned to Asuncion at 1500.

15,000 March Against 'Impunity' for Stroessner

PY0511205589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 6

[Excerpts] Some 15,000 persons categorically said "no to impunity" during a demonstration last night in front of the Palace of Justice. For more than 3 hours, the disciplined crowd demanded the extradition, prosecution, and punishment of ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner, who celebrates his birthday today. The crowd demanded the same treatment for the thieves, murderers, and torturers of the Stroessner dictatorship.

The demonstrators demanded more firmness on the part of judicial authorities, the dismissal of judges and prosecutors who fail to fulfill their functions, and the resignation of Attorney General Diogenes Martinez.

The demonstration was held as part of the national campaign against impunity, which is being sponsored by more than 40 political, social, and labor organizations. Similar demonstrations were held in Pilar and Encarnacion. There will be a demonstration in Ciudad del Este on Sunday. [passage omitted]

The demonstrators met at different points of the city and then—chanting slogans and waving banners and signs reading "Stroessner, murderer, dethroned: we want to see you hang," "No more unmarked graves," and "Freedom for Abilio Rolon,"—they gathered on the corner of Colon Street and Carlos Antonio Lopez Avenue. Banners of the Paraguayan Communist Party were seen flying in the crowd for the first time in 50 years. The small police detachment did nothing but direct traffic.

From the gathering point, the demonstrators marched toward the Palace of Justice, where the rally ended with speeches. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Reports Latest Inflation Figures

PY0411235089 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 15

[Excerpt] Although inflation has not dropped, its rate of increase slowed to 0.3 percent in October. The cost of living has increased by 28 percent so far this year. According to the consumer price index released by the Central Bank, the price of food items has decreased. [passage omitted]

South American Business Group Meets in Asuncion

PY0311224389 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p 11

[Excerpt] The ninth assembly of the Interregional Businessmen's Group of West-Central South America (GEICOS) opened with the participation of representatives from Argentina, eastern Bolivia, Chile, and Peru. Jose Pappalardo, the Paraguayan regional secretary, is presiding over the assembly.

Radoslav Razmilic, the outgoing GEICOS president said that "the atmosphere at this ninth assembly is different. At the beginning we were a bit utopian and we asked for things that were impossible to achieve and which were not given importance." [passage omitted]

AIDS Control Program Reports Six New Cases

PY0511210489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 18

[Excerpt] Six new cases of AIDS have been detected. The spokesman for the National AIDS Control Program has reported that they were all males, four of them homosexuals.

The new cases bring the number AIDS cases registered in our country to 42, most of them people under age 40. Only two women have been reported with AIDS. So far, 11 cases have ended in death. [passage omitted]

Peru

Lima Generally Peaceful on Day of 'Armed Strike'

'Unprecedented Military Display'

PY0311205489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 3 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian capital woke up today under heavy security measures and an unprecedented military display as the government attempts to ensure calm in view of the Maoist terrorist organization Shining Path call to strike.

The only incidents so far occurred in the early morning when at least three bombs exploded in a commercial center, a movie house, and a park near the U.S. ambassador's residence. Police registered sabotage on two power lines.

Practically the entire Lima military and police force with the support of some 400 tanks, armed vehicles, and helicopters were mobilized last night in an attempt to guarantee security to a population of over 6 million people fearful of possible guerrilla actions.

Metropolitan Lima has been in a state of emergency for the past 10 days and under control of the Armed Forces for the past 72 hours.

This measures were adopted as precautions against the Shining Path's call for an "armed strike" as well as to guarantee the 12 November municipal elections throughout the country that the Shining Path has said it will boycott.

The Army, Navy, Air Force, the National Police, and armed civilian groups are patrolling strategic Lima neighborhoods and suburban areas where authorities believe the greatest social discontent and guerrilla influence are located.

At least 100 people were arrested, apparently for lack of identification, by the Antiguerrilla Specialized Police on an access road to the "young towns" (poor neighborhoods), in the crowded district of San Juan de Miraflores, where violence traditionally has its roots.

Despite government guarantees, many students were absent from schools following meetings among parents, teachers, and even school officials who did not recommend attending classes today.

The lack of public transport service early in the morning prevented students from going to schools and workers to their jobs. The government decided to allow workers to be hours late.

Private transporters, responsible for almost 90 percent of the passenger transport in Lima, explained that although the government offered them guarantees today, within the next few days they could be victims of retaliatory action by the Shining Path.

Stores owners in the central highway zone, where a large number of Shining Path members are believed to exist, decided to close their doors. They expressed their fear of looting and possible attacks as happened during a previous "armed stoppage" called for by the guerrillas.

In the industrial zones, most of the factories are open but with increased security. Policemen with their faces covered are watching the gas stations.

In downtown Lima, stores, both large and small, were still closed at 1100. The banks were open, but some of them with only limited service.

General Samuel Rubio Arevalo, military chief of Lima, has reported that at noon today political parties, unions, and the some of the largest institutions will stage a march in favor of peace and in defense of democracy. The march will take place in downtown Lima which has been cordoned off by thousands of policemen.

Police, Shining Path Clash

PY0311205389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1945 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 3 Nov (TELAM-ANSA)—According to preliminary reports, there was a clash today at noon between the police and terrorists of the pro-Maoist "Shining Path." The reports add that two people were killed and several were injured in the clash that took place in a heavily-populated Lima neighborhood.

This is the first incident to occur today in Lima. Thousands are participating in a march to reject the violence promoted by "Shining Path."

According to a police source, Army troops have been mobilized to the area where the clash took place. The source added that "we still do not have a specific report on the incident."

No Incidents in 'March for Peace'

PY0411143289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The march for peace organized by presidential and municipal candidates from all political parties,

labor union representatives, leaders of professional associations, businessmen, the church, and intellectuals in general took place as planned today. The march, which started in different districts in Lima, ended at Grau Square where the people laid flower wreaths, hoisted the national flag, and sang the national anthem. The marchers also offered a minute of silence to honor the victims of terrorism. Here is a detailed report on the march for peace:

[Begin reporter recording] The various rallies organized by political parties, labor unions, professional associations, the church, representatives of the business sector, artists, and intellectuals have been coming together since 0900 to participate in the march for peace.

Members of the United Left, led by their presidential and municipal candidate (Henry Peace), met at 2 de Mayo Square. A group of unaffiliated Socialists led by presidential candidate Alfonso Barrantes Lingan met on the eighth bloc of Camana Avenue in downtown Lima. Members of the political parties making up the FREDEMO [Democratic Front] electoral alliance, which is headed by Mario Vargas Llosas, met at Jorge Chavez Square. Members of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] met with presidential candidate Luis Alva Castro at Bolognesi Square. Also taking part were Lima mayoral candidate Mercedes Cabanillas, Transportation Minister Oswaldo Moran, Deputy Luis Negreiros Criado, and other APRA members. At Francia Square, in front of Recoleta Church, different religious and laymen organizations and members of the Catholic Youth Movement met. They were led by Lima Auxiliary Bishops German Smith, Javier Ariz, and (Augusto Bouceville). [passage omitted]

These organizations later marched to Grau Square, arriving at about 1200. The main leaders of the political parties gathered on a platform built for the occasion near the monument honoring the famous Peruvian admiral. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Activities 'Developed Normally'

PY0411030089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Activities in Lima developed normally today. Public enterprises, factories, stores, and schools operated without any problem. However, citizens had difficulty getting to work because of the shortage of private transportation services, which prompted them to use all means of transport. The ENATRUPERU [National Urban Transportation Enterprise] and Lima Metropolitan Enterprise vehicles circulated normally with police protection. At the same time motorized units of the Army and National Police, supported by helicopters, constantly patrolled the city.

The inhabitants of the southern section went to work today, thus rejecting the terrorists' attempt to intimidate them. Unfortunately the shortage of public transportation prevented many workers from arriving to work on time because they had to resort to other means of transportation. [passage omitted]

National Police personnel were stationed at the various bus stops to help people board any vehicle that would take them to work. Joint police and Army units patrolled the southern section, granting special assistance at service stations and banks.

Activities in the commercial, banking, and construction sectors developed normally. Housewives did their daily shopping as usual at the marketplaces, while workers continued repairing streets like normal.

Calm prevailed in the San Juan de Miraflores, Villa Maria del Triunfo, and Villa El Salvador districts, according to information given by Mayor Michel Azscuetas. [passage omitted]

The situation in the various marketplaces was similar to that in the other productive sectors of the country. With only a few exceptions, most merchants opened their stores and worked as normal.

At 0900 hospitals in Lima were operating with the usual total calm. This means that workers have come to work as usual. Doctors and doctors assistants have also punched in as usual.

The emergency rooms are as full as on any other day; assistance is being rendered normally. [passage omitted]

Editorials Discuss Recent Costa Rican Summit

Bush Participation Noted

PY0311210389 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "The Costa Rican Meeting"]

[Text] A summit is currently being held in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, to mark the bicentennial of the establishment of democracy in this beautiful Central American nation. It is obvious however, that its main objective is the meeting between U.S. President George Bush and the Latin American and Caribbean chiefs of state.

Eighteen presidents from as many Latin American and Caribbean states are attending, and the few countries whose presidents could not attend the summit, as is the case of Peru, have sent representatives of the appropriate rank.

It is noteworthy that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has insisted on exclusively inviting those presidents who were democratically elected. This, automatically excluded Cuba, Panama, Haiti, and Chile. The debatable presence of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, however, calls our attention.

The Peruvian, Mexican, Guatemalan, Surinamese, and Bolivian presidents have excused themselves for different reasons.

The agenda includes problems involving Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, including underdevelopment, the illegal drug trade, the situation of democracies in the hemisphere, disarmament, the foreign debt, and deforestation. Notwithstanding the obvious importance of these issues, it was previously decided not to reach any type of agreement so as not to disturb the essentially deliberative nature of the summit.

This summit is exceptionaly important for the future of relations within the hemisphere because a presidential summit of this importance has not been held for the past 22 years. It may be recalled that the last important summit was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1967.

The presence of President Bush is very important, and it is interesting to discuss some of the remarks he made to our special envoy during an exclusive and unprecedented news conference with journalists from the leading Latin American newspaper before the summit. During this news conference, Bush announced his position on the different points that will be discussed in San Juan [as published].

First, Bush said that he would try to direct his foreign policy on Latin America in such a way that decisive steps would be taken to overcome the old unilateral approach concerning the relationship between our countries and the United States.

Bush also said that he would implement a consistent, coordinated, and permanent policy based on basic agreements between the involved parties.

Bush added that his government is aware of the fact that it must follow a policy that will allow the development of profitable relations in the economic, diplomatic, and military fields. He said that the notable progress in the democratization processes in Latin America has created an atmosphere that favors dialogue, because his country is radically opposed to dictatorships. Therefore, the new institutional systems in the Latin American political arena represent an endorsement of the sovereignty of the defense and the respect for self-determination.

Of course, the greatest agreements and conflicts lie in the situations prevailing in Nicaragua and Panama, where such rights and observances are totally ignored.

Bush knows that another obstruction to [U.S.] policy on Latin America is the inertia of the old bureaucratic habits that prevail in the U.S. State Department, habits that, undoubtedly, will be very difficult to change. Therefore, the drive for change must be "very strong and resolute."

President Bush has embarked upon a long-term commitment to better understand Latin American problems and to implement multilateral and bilateral programs, as demonstrated by the many meetings that he has held with many Latin American presidents during his relatively brief tenure.

The words and attitudes of the U.S. President demonstrate his sincerity and his firm resolve. The U.S. President's words and attitudes will contribute to remove prejudices, like the one involving intervention. We hope that the expectation created by this new policy will be seen to be implemented.

Inter-American Dialogue Praised

PY0311231989 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 30 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "San Jose and the Inter-American Dialogue"]

[Text] The summit to celebrate 100 years of Costa Rican independence, has just ended in San Jose. This summit globally reestablished a thorough inter-American dialogue, which seemed to have been limited just to the diplomatic level.

By inter-American dialogue, we refer to the exchange of points of view and to the analysis of potentially conflictive situations that may occur in this part of the world.

The most important accomplishment of these days of contacts at the highest level is that this summit has allowed presidents from the different hemispheres to reestablish, although informally, the personal contact that is necessary to effectively consolidate the democratic spirit of the American continent.

This is why not only Latin American countries—with the exception of the Chilean, Panamanian, and Nicaraguan dictatorships that were not invited and the Peruvian Constitutional Government which, although invited, did not attend the summit—but also Canada and the United States were represented at the summit.

Firm vows were made and political maneuvers performed during the summit, favoring the countries administered by democratic governments. The redemocratization process of countries, such as Chile and Nicaragua, where elections will soon be held, was also stimulated.

According to news published by the international press, however, other important topics were discussed. These topics include the need to coordinate efforts and criteria to fight the drug-trafficking scourge that affects so many countries of the continent and the need to find an urgent solution to the Latin American foreign debt.

Another topic discussed at the summit was the U.S. market quotas, especially the quotas for coffee which is directly connected to the Colombian Government's urgent need to maintain its economic stability now that the country has plunged into the fight against drug traffickers.

The decision by the Canadian Government to join the OAS is very positive because it is well-known that the OAS is going through a lengthy financial and identity crisis from which it must recover if it is to efficiently

comply with its role as mediator in the sensitive problems being experienced in the region.

Although Nicaragua did not directly participate in the summit, it did set a discouraging tone when the Nicaraguan Government, which is presided over by Daniel Ortega, decided to resume war against the already withdrawing forces of the armed opposition with the clear intention of hindering the electoral process. This move, if conducted normally in spite of all the difficulties, would open the doors to a democratic government.

The Latin American presidents were similarly discouraged by the tyrannical Panamanian Government, led by General Noriega, which nor only insists on consolidating a corporative regime surrounded by plentiful leftist rhetoric, but which also repeatedly proves to be repressive and disrespectful of the basic liberties, as shown by his recent decision to prevent UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL from performing its normal duties.

Regarding Chile, as far as is known, the chiefs of state insisted on the need for the December elections to be held with the necessary guarantees for the opposition forces. It seems, however, that no important observations were made since the process there seems to be developing smoothly according to the way in which Christian Democratic leader Patricio Aylwin is carrying out his campaign.

The Costa Rica summit has once again proved the great need for the American chiefs of state who profess to uphold democratic ideals to establishing direct and effective communication channels and thus assess the situation of this hemisphere from a broad an joint point of view.

This does not mean that we do not appreciate the efforts made by groups like the "Group of Eight" but we believe that difficult situations cannot be discussed from a biased and unilateral point of view.

Economy Minister Details Anti-Inflation Measures

PY0611142089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Economy Minister Cesar Vasquez Bazan said today that the sudden increase in the price of dollars is due to strong demand over the past few days. Vasquez Bazan also said that the government expects a 14 to 20 percent inflation rate this month and that a National Economic Council—an old government proposal—could help the country's recovery.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Vasquez Bazan, why has the dollar price increased so sharply in the parallel market? The exchange rate has surpassed 7,000 intis here.

[Vazquez] There are several reasons: First, foreign exchange organizations decided a few days ago to restrict the supply of dollars to take advantage of the October salary payment. Second, there has been a gradual recovery of the purchasing power of salaries. The reduction in supply has affected the dollar price but the government has taken measures to control the situation.

[Reporter] What kind of measures?

[Vasquez] They were published in EL PERUANO yesterday. The Central Bank has decided to let exporters keep 20 percent of their dollar earnings in cash and 35 percent in CLD's [dollar denominated certificates redeemable at the official rate]. These two measures will allow exporters to have more dollars to exchange, which will help regulate the dollar price. The measures will also help the export sector.

[Reporter] Will inflation drop below 23.3 percent despite the rise in the price of dollars?

[Vasquez] We have taken a series of measures to reduce inflation to an average of 10 to 18 percent in the last quarter of this year. These measures are: The official exchange rate—that is, the exchange rate in the MUC [Single Exchange Rate Market]—will be devaluated by 6 percent a month; 35 percent of the dollars needed for imports will be sold at the MUC rate; and interest rates have been reduced to encourage production and credit sales. We have also taken measures to help the export sectors, including the 20 percent dollar retention, new lines of credit, and the reduction of selective consumption taxes. Also, salaries will be indexed to future inflation rates.

In October, the government had to outlay nearly 200 million intis to cover the inflation adjustment alone. The additional money came from the increased October tax collection. We predicted a tax collection of 850 billion intis for October, but we collected nearly 1.25 trillion. The 400 billion increase is the result of the economic reactivation now underway and new taxes, such as the 1.5 percent tax on debts and the taxing supervision exemptions. In November, we expect to implement a special contributions system.

The fight against inflation involves the government—we have already taken certain measures—and the private sector. The private sector must help the government. We have noticed that some sectors are trying to gain extra profits in the last few months to make up for what they could not make during the first 4 months of the year. They are going overboard with their price adjustments. We reiterate our call for moderation in the private sector.

I also want to announce that the Economy Ministry will submit a new plan for the creation of the National Economic Council. The council is an old APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] project, and it is necessary discussing economic proposals seriously. Peru cannot fall into a recession like the one we suffered last year. I think all Peruvians must help. [end recording]

New Minister of Agriculture Assumes Post

PY0111165689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The new minister of agriculture, Isaac Roberto Lazo, assumed his post today in a brief ceremony. He announced that operations will be carried out within the next few hours to confiscate basic foodstuffs that are being illegally sold on the streets. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Kills Three; Police Detain Six

PY0311142389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 3 Nov (EFE)—Police sources reported today that two government officials and a woman were killed by "Shining Path" terrorists in the town of Pomacocha last Wednesday.

Justice of the Peace Delfin Morales, Deputy Governor Felix Quispe, and a woman named Francisca Fernandez were killed in the terrorist attack in Pomacocha. Community leader Marcelino Pomasonco was also injured.

The same sources reported that a National Police group raided a Shining Path safehouse in a slum of Pucallpa, the capital of Ucayali Department in the Peruvian jungle area, seizing 12 weapons, 1 grenade, 6 homemade bombs, and a large quantity of ammunition. They also arrested four suspects.

The police said that on Wednesday they raided the house in Pucallpa, 840 km northeast of Lima, after receiving information from their special units. They noted that although a group of subversives managed to flee, four persons were detained. The police sources added that a search of the house turned up the aforementioned arms, explosives, detonators, and ignition fuzes.

In Chincha, 202 km south of Lima, it was also reported that police found 700 sticks of dynamite, 11 homemade bombs, and a large amount of ammunition in a house in the town of Pueblo Nuevo. They also captured two alleged members of the Shining Path.

A senatorial commission, studying the reasons for the current violence in the country, reported that 397 persons were killed in October as a result of political violence and that more than 15,250 persons have been killed over the past 9 years. The "Shining Path" began its armed struggle in May 1980.

Terrorists Kill Local APRA Leader in Huaraz

PY0611135389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Huaraz, Peru, 5 Nov (EFE)—The police have reported that alleged members of the Maoist "Shining Path" terrorist group killed a local leader from the ruling party today. The incident occurred in Huaraz just 1 week before the municipal elections.

According to the police, the subversives raided the Tinco district, went to the house of Sofia Minaya, a 28-year-old teacher who is also the general secretary of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) in this region, and shot her three times in the head.

The police added that on 4 November dozens of alleged Shining Path terrorists attacked Tinco, a town 450 km northwest of Lima. After causing a blackout, the terrorists hurled dynamite at the house of Celia Rivero, a candidate for the rightist Democratic Front in the 12 November municipal elections. The police reported that Rivero was unharmed. The police also said that the guerrillas hurled explosives at a people's cooperative and the Advanced Teacher Training Institute, causing severe damage.

Huaraz, an Andean province popular with tourists because of its snow-covered peaks, is a constant target for the Shining Path. Therefore, the police added, domestic and international tourism has decreased.

According to sources from the National Electoral Court in Lima, the constant terrorist attacks and threats, and the assassinations of civilian authorities—among them many mayors—have forced many candidates to withdraw from the municipal elections.

Uruguay

Polls Indicate Opposition Candidate Leading

PY0411170989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1104 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Nov (EFE)—According to the results of two public opinion polls released in Montevideo today, Luis Alberto Lacalle, the presidential candidate of the National (Blanco) Party—the main opposition party—will likely win the 26 November elections.

The local branch of the U.S.-based Gallup Poll reported that, although 23 percent of the population is still undecided, the Blanco Party is 7 percentage points ahead the ruling Colorado Party throughout the country. The Gallup poll, which was taken in towns of more than 10,000 people, revealed that 29 percent of Uruguayans—26 percent in Montevideo and 32 percent in the countryside—will vote for the Blanco Party. According to the same poll, the Colorado Party will get the support of 22 percent of the voters—21 percent in Montevideo and 23 percent in the countryside.

Gallup reported that 16 percent of the voters will support the leftist Broad Front coalition, with 24 percent in Montevideo but only 8 percent in the countryside. The Board Front won 21.5 percent of votes throughout the country in the 1984 presidential elections. Within the Blanco Party, the Gallup poll revealed that Luis Alberto Lacalle received the support of 50 percent of party members while 37 percent supported Carlos Julio

Pereira. In the Colorado party, 47 percent of the members support candidate Jorge Batlle and 37 percent are for former President Jorge Pacheco Areco.

The "Equipos" firm has reported that, in Montevideo, 13.5 percent are still undecided, 28.7 percent support the Broad Front, 25.9 percent support the Blanco Party, and 17.2 percent support the Colorado Party. This poll also revealed that 58.8 percent of Blanco Party voters support Lacalle and 41.6 percent support Carlos Julio Pereira, while 48.5 percent of Colorado Party voters support Jorge Pacheco Areco and 43 percent support Jorge Batlle.

"Equipos" released the results of a nationwide study a week ago, concluding that "if during the last month before the election there is no major growth in voter preferences for the Colorado Party," the outcome of the election "will favor the Blanco Party" by 6 or more percentage points. However, electoral statistics expert Julio Venturini reported in a study published by LA REPUBLICA that the Colorado Party will win 840,000 votes—70,000 more than the Blanco Party—if voters preferences maintain their historical trends.

Candidate Batlle Favors Paying Foreign Debt

PY0611161289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1606 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Nov (EFE)—Uruguayan Senator Jorge Batlle, presidential candidate for the Colorado Party, has said in Buenos Aires that "the foreign debt should be paid."

Batlle, who is running for the Presidency in the Uruguayan elections to be held this month, said: "This is a major difference of opinion between me and National Party candidate Senator Luis Lacalle, who favors negotiating the debt based on the Brady Plan. I want to pay it, because it will help control inflation." [passage omitted]

The Uruguayan presidential candidate said that there are currently two important economic trends in Latin America and that he favors an open economy and privatization. Batlle said that "this is the current trend prevailing from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego (Argentina). This trend is followed by men like Salinas de Gortari and Carlos Andres Perez, and it was definitely adopted in Bolivia in the policies of Presidents Paz Estenssoro and Paz Zamora."

"This is our line and that of Lacalle. The other economic trend envisions a society governed by the state and not by the market; that is, a programmed economy. That is the economic trend of the Broad Front, of Batalla, and of the National Party headed by Pereyra," Batlle said.

Venezuela

Perez Sends Letter to Brandt on Panama Crisis

PA0311195789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Nov 89 pp 1, 18

[Text of letter sent by Presi lent Carlos Andres Perez to Dr Willy Brandt, president of the Socialist International, on 10 October]

[Text] Miraflores, 10 October 1989 Dr Willy Brandt, president of the Socialist International, Bonn, FRG

Dear Mr President and friend:

I am deeply concerned about the situation being experienced by the Panamanian people because, following the annulment of the elections, which led to the suspension in Stockholm of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] as a consultative party of the Socialist International, the general picture has worsened. The OAS actions to mediate the conflict have failed, and we are now following with increasing concern the tragic events that have followed the rebellion in the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] on 3 October—the execution of the arrested officers, as well as all types of aggression against the civilian population—which are sowing terror in Panama.

Since 1 September, General Manuel Antonio Noriega has appointed a provisional government and illegally and illegitimately abolished the existing legal order. Young officers, who represent the best mid-level cadres of the FDP and who recognize Gen Omar Torrijos as their doctrinaire leader, staged the rebellion because they refused to grant their superiors any moral authority or hierarchy to remain in front of the institution and unrightfully exercise public powers.

All mass media is either severely controlled or closed. The isolation of the Panamanian Government has increased internationally in a decisive manner, but we are also concerned that important dates related to implementing the Torrijos-Carter Treaties are drawing near, thereby endangering the agreements, which had the blessing of all the Latin American governments, thereby opening the road for confrontation between the United States and Latin America.

The outlook of the Panamanian crisis has become uncertain and full of unpredictable consequences in the framework of the seriousness of the social and economic situation that prevails in Latin America.

Over the next 15 months, about 10 presidential and legislative elections will take place on the continent, an important challenge to the regional democratic forces. As you can see, there are well-founded reasons to justify my increasing concern as Venezuelan president, as a democrat, and as vice president of the Socialist International. In view of this situation, I have held talks with my fellow Democratic Action Party members, and we have concluded that it is necessary to renew and intensify

efforts designed to promote Panama's return to democracy and thereby consolidate the democratic process, one of our basic proposals to confront the general crisis that prevails in Latin America.

In view of such a serious crisis threatening consolidation of the democratic process in Latin America, I believe it is appropriate to ask you, as president of Socialist International, to convene a joint meeting on 3 November in Caracas of the presidents and important leaders of the parties that comprise the Christian Democrat International, Liberal International, and Socialist International.

The unification of the positions and efforts of the three international organizations of democratic parties with the democratic forces in Latin America regarding the situation in Panama would be a fundamental and decisive contribution. The positive results achieved during the first meeting of this type, held to promote Chile's return to democracy, are encouraging. We could convene important leaders of Latin American political parties to this meeting. Allow me to inform you that I told Dr Eduardo Fernandez, president of Christian Democrat International, about this initiative; he told me his organization, at a recent meeting in Guatemala, approved the initiative, the site, and the date I proposed.

We are aware of the short notice for the meeting, but the urgency of the events demands we do it this way. Your presence at this meeting, dear Mr President and friend, is decisive not only because of the prestige you would contribute to the event, but also because of the importance it has for European countries that are increasingly concerned and committed to Latin America and our democratic processes.

My dear good friend, before saying good-bye, I wish you good health and reiterate my deepest feelings of respect and esteem.

Sincerely,

Carlos Andres Perez

Central Bank Holds Auction for Debt Conversion

PA0411152789 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Venezuela [BCV] today held the first auction to convert the debt into investments, and granted bids in the amount of approximately $147 million. It was reported that, during the auction, 16 out of the 22 projects that were presented were approved.

BCV President Pedro Tinoco described the auction as a success. He emphasized that the projects which were presented for bids were all good.

[Begin Tinoco recording] Many of these projects are for export purposes or for tourism, which generates a considerable amount of foreign currency cash flow. This also makes it possible to reduce the heavy burden of the debt and to reduce service payments which are priority goals. [end recording]

Edison Perozo, chairman of the Foreign Investments Superintendency, said that most of the approved projects are aimed at tourism, agriculture, fishery, and construction among others. The success of this first auction might surpass the absolute ceiling of $1.8 billion of conversion to an amount of approximately $4 to $5 billion.

[Begin Perozo recording] The only ones who abstained from participating in this auction, because of very technical conditions, that we understand, were those involved in very large projects such as the petrochemical and aluminum projects. This does not mean they do not have the chance of being offered again. You will recall that this was clearly explained at the beginning of the auction. The offer is valid for 1 year, which means that these large projects—as well as those that were invalidated because of mistakes, if you will—may be reconsidered at any other time. [end recording]

The mechanism of converting the debt into investments is applicable to the United States, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Costa Rica. The BCV offered a 30-percent basic discount at this auction. The top offer was 46.26 percent, while the lowest one was 35.5 percent. The average bid was 43.7 percent. Another similar auction might be held prior to December.